

H I L L C O U N T R Y

observer

The independent newspaper of eastern New York, southwestern Vermont and the Berkshires

FREE DECEMBER 2022 - JANUARY 2023 FREE



Endangered owls, meet solar panels

Joan K. Lentini photo

Green goals collide as energy firm plans project
in prime bird habitat

Story on Page 4

Plus

Classic diner
at the hub of
Bennington

Page 3

Region's new
jobs goal:
Find workers

Page 8

Election 2022:
Area results
and analysis

Page 11

Roller coaster
at center of
an art exhibit

Page 17

Arts, cultural
events from
eight counties

Pages 19-23

Hill Country Observer

Editor & Publisher
Fred Daley

Photography
Stephenson Brown
George Bouret
Scott Langley
Joan K. Lentini
Susan Sabino

Business Manager
Chris Stern

Contributing writers

Kate Abbott
Tracy Frisch
Telly Halkias
Craig Idlebrook
Evan Lawrence
Don Lehman
Stacey Morris
John Seven
Maury Thompson
John Townes

Advertising Sales
Marilyn Cavaliere
Bonny Gavel
David Shufelt

Social Media Manager
Megan Harrington

Advertising Design
Sara Kelly

Editorial Cartoon
Mark Wilson

Subscriptions: Ten issues for \$30
77 East Main St.
P.O. Box 158
Cambridge, NY 12816

phone: 518-677-8508
toll-free: 866-806-6838

Editor: fdaley@hillcountryobserver.com
Advertising: advertising@hillcountryobserver.com
Event listings: calendar@hillcountryobserver.com

*The Hill Country Observer is published
10 times per year (monthly except Jan., March)
by Observer Publishing Inc.*

HILL COUNTRY

observer

DECEMBER 2022 - JANUARY 2023

The independent newspaper of eastern New York, southwestern Vermont and the Berkshires



Endangered owls, meet solar panels

For the past dozen years, local conservationists have been working to preserve hundreds of acres of critical bird habitat in the area known as the Washington County grasslands. But members and supporters of the Grassland Bird Trust have lately been grappling with a new challenge to the group's efforts: A developer has proposed a large-scale solar energy installation that would occupy up to 800 acres within the 2,000-acre grassland zone that the National Audubon Society designated as an "important bird area" in 1997. Page 4



Tight labor market shifts area's economic goals

Washington County officials cheered this fall when Amazon announced plans to establish a regional distribution center near the Vermont border in Granville. But local business owners wonder just where the company will find the 200-plus workers needed to run the facility, given a national labor shortage that is already being felt acutely in the region. As the labor market tightens, some economic development officials have shifted their focus from attracting new employers to helping existing businesses maintain and adequate work force. Page 8



Election 2022: Results from across the region

Maura Healey becomes only the second Democrat in 32 years to win election as governor of deep-blue Massachusetts; Republicans flip a series of U.S. House seats in New York; and Vermont voters overwhelmingly re-elect a Republican governor while strengthening the hand of legislative Democrats. Page 11

Roller coaster at center of new Mass MoCA show

The solo rider in the single cart drops a full story in a rush, lifting both arms overhead and shouting as the car swings into a wide arc. In "Brake Run Helix," the newest exhibit at Mass MoCA's cavernous Building 5, the Los Angeles artist EJ Hill has created an installation out of experience on an edge of terror and delight. Page 17

Maury Thompson: 'Chestnutting' was 19th century pastime Page 15

Visual arts exhibition listings Page 19

Guide to theater productions Page 20

Arts & Culture calendar Pages 20-23

Cover photo by Joan K. Lentini: The vast expanse of open land known as the Washington County grasslands is home to 10 of the 11 grassland bird species that are considered in greatest need of conservation in New York.



Rablogan Castle of Scotland

Purveyors of Scottish Lifestyle Elements

Imported Scottish Cheese and British Groceries
Traditional Haggis and Meats, Fresh Baked Goods
Pies, Pasties and Sausage Rolls
Highland clothing, Jewelry and Accessories
for the whole family
Scottish-made Highlandwear
Home Goods, Gifts and SO MUCH MORE

US Home of
"Rablogan of Scotland"
Tartans & Tweeds

*Inspiring the inclusion of Tartan & Tweed
in everyday fashion*



5187 VT Rte 7A • Arlington, VT 05250
Open Daily 9:30am-5:30pm
802-549-8928 • www.rablogan.com



HL Propane Co. Inc.

All Propane is the Same, Ours is Cheaper!

We Will Beat Any Competitor's Price on Propane, Fuel Oil, Kerosene or Diesel Fuel

24 Hour Service!

Call Us Today: (518) 794-9066

HLFuel.com

Classic diner, community hub

New book celebrates Bennington's Blue Benn and its longtime owners

By STACEY MORRIS
Contributing writer

BENNINGTON, Vt.

Just up the road from the four corners at the center of downtown Bennington sits a legend.

Make that a legend with a parking lot. Because how else could the faithful townspeople and curious tourists alike pile in for blueberry pancakes, tuna melts and Greek salads?

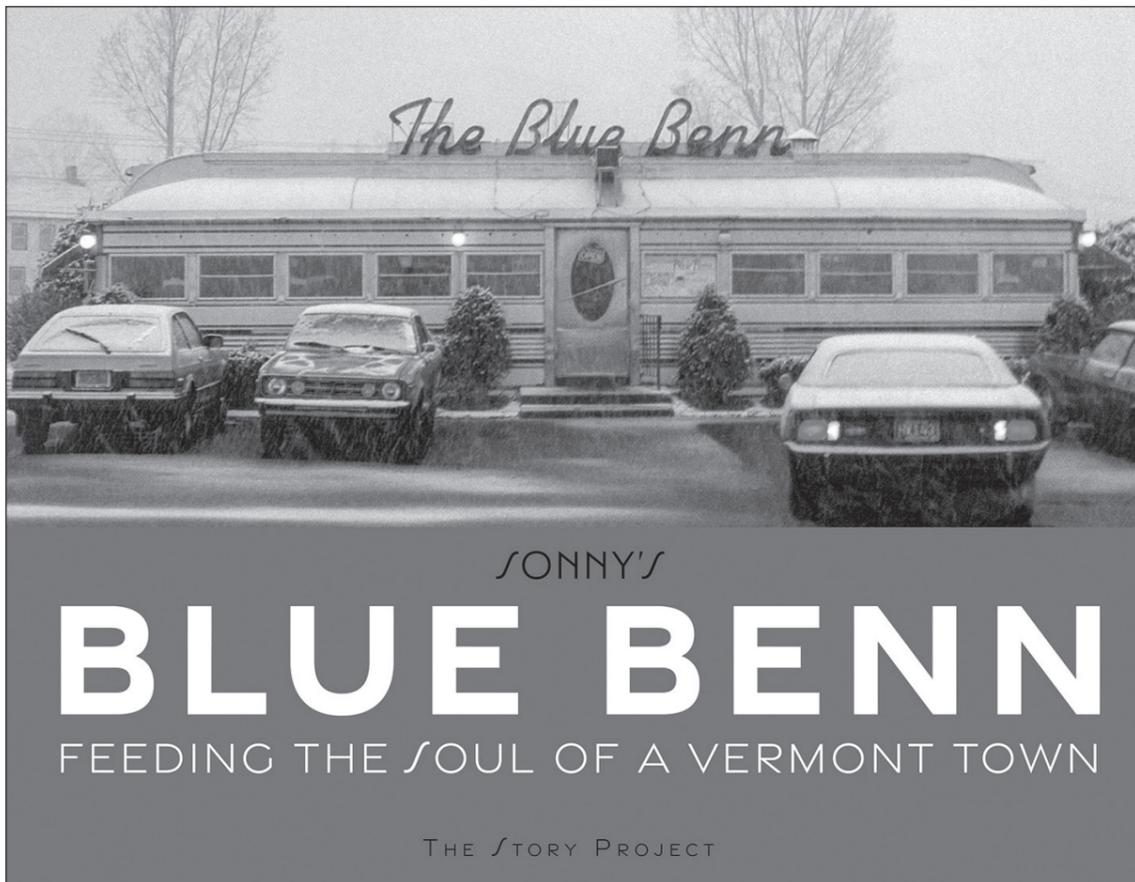
The Blue Benn diner has been in existence since 1948, when it opened as one of the original "Silk City" diners. But it was during the era from 1973 to 2021 that the Blue Benn became known as more than just a destination for good comfort food. It was during this five-decade span that Franklin "Sonny" Monroe and his wife, Mary Lou, turned the eatery into a place for virtually everyone in the community, as well as those just passing through, the occasional ill-mannered celebrity notwithstanding.

Stepping inside its fabled silver door was the great equalizing experience for a community with a mixture of blue-collar workers, second-home owners, college students and professors, and upscale tourists visiting such attractions as the Williamstown Theatre Festival.

Sonny and Mary Lou set a tone of inclusion and egalitarianism, and the diner's staff followed suit. The result was that outside-world barriers of socio-economic status and political divisions fell away as diners mingled over coffee and conversation.

When the diner was put up for sale in 2020, it was one of the Blue Benn's most loyal customers who came up with the idea to immortalize the scope of its community influence in "Sonny's Blue Benn: Feeding The Soul of a Vermont Town," a glossy, 174-page coffee table book filled with interviews and nostalgic photographs of the diner's interior, staff, customers and its beloved owners.

That customer, who wishes to remain anonymous, commissioned local photographer and book designer Peter Crabtree and writer Caitlin Randall of The Story Project to compile photos and interviews for the book, as well as design the final product. The limited edition book retails for \$40 and is available at several regional book-



Courtesy photos

A new book by two area journalists pays tribute to the Blue Benn diner in Bennington and the couple who ran it for nearly five decades, Sonny and Mary Lou Monroe, seen at right in 1977.

stores, but not online.

"This is the first book we've done for a general audience in mind," Crabtree said. "We could have gone the Amazon route, but it would have compromised the quality of book."

Instead, The Story Project sought the services of Studley Press in Dalton, Mass., a publisher known for producing books for museums and fine arts organizations. The result is a sturdy hardbound volume. Its thick, glossy pages are filled with photographs of the diner's key characters as well as Blue Benn memorabilia and artwork collected by the Monroe family and

continued on page 16



coolsculpting
 FREEZE FAT AWAY • NO DOWNTIME • NO SURGERY
 NO NEEDLES • FREE CONSULTATION

MASKS ARE COMING OFF!
 Let us get the extra chin off with 25% off CoolSculpting facial contouring.

BEFORE **AFTER**

Time to get the holiday bulge off with body sculpting at Healthy Image.

Healthy Image
 616 MAIN STREET, WILLIAMSTOWN
 MA 01267 • 413-458-6294
 www.healthyimagema.com

What's NOT to Like?!

"This bank and the people in it were amazing! They were with us every step of the way as we purchased and restored this historic Norman Rockwell property."

— Kevin & Sue Harter
 Rockwell's Retreat
 Arlington

For a local banking partner that gets results, switch today!

Bennington 802-442-8121	Arlington 802-375-2319	Rutland 802-774-5085	Manchester 802-362-4760
----------------------------	---------------------------	-------------------------	----------------------------

TheBankofBennington.com

The Bank of Bennington™
 Your Money Stays Here, Works Here,
 and that Makes a Difference.™

Endangered owls, meet solar panels

Green goals collide as energy firm plans project in prime bird habitat

By TRACY FRISCH
Contributing writer

FORT EDWARD, N.Y.

For the past dozen years, local conservationists have been working to preserve hundreds of acres of critical bird habitat in the area known as the Washington County grasslands.

Members and supporters of the Grassland Bird Trust have forged ties with local private landowners as well as local and state officials to protect the area's open fields, which are home to 10 of the 11 grassland bird species that are considered in greatest need of conservation in New York. Among these are short-eared owls, which once were common in New York but now are classified as endangered.

But lately the group has been grappling with a new challenge to its efforts: a developer's proposal for a large-scale solar energy installation covering up to 800 acres within the 2,000-acre grassland zone that the National Audubon Society has designated as an "important bird area."

Boralex, a Montreal-based renewable energy company, has obtained lease options on 2,000 acres from private landowners in the area and says it intends to place solar panels on at least 700 acres. The 100-megawatt project is expected to be operational by 2024.

"We support renewable energy," said Katherine Roome, the board secretary of the Grassland Bird Trust. "But they have chosen an extremely sensitive area that has been recognized as an important bird area."

Leaders of the Grassland Bird Trust have engaged actively with Boralex since they first learned of the company's planned solar project in early 2019, Roome said.

Boralex has sought the group's advice in identifying quality habitat areas it might set aside to mitigate the project's effects, and Grassland Bird Trust board members have met with the company's representatives on multiple occasions.

"We have been telling Boralex that we want to have the most conservation acres built into the project as possible – more than the bare minimum has been our consistent message," said Ron Renoni, an advisory board member and past president of the bird trust.

After almost four years of talks, however, the bird trust's board members say they remain in the dark about how the company intends to protect important habitat and mitigate habitat losses resulting from the solar project.

And under a new regulatory system the state adopted in 2020 to speed the development of renewable energy projects, the developer's legal



Joan K. Lentini photo

The Grassland Bird Trust has been working for the past 12 years to conserve critical bird habitat in the Washington County grasslands, and the group established the Alfred Z. Solomon Grassland Viewing Area, above, where the public can see some of the dozens of bird species, some rare, that breed, winter or migrate through the area. Now the group is seeking to mitigate the effects of an 800-acre solar power installation proposed for the area.

obligations to protect wildlife habitat have been greatly reduced.

New York's old power plant siting law, which previously covered such projects, set a formula for mitigating habitat taken for an energy generation project. It required 3 acres to be conserved for every acre of grassland bird habitat taken by the project.

But under the new law, a solar developer only has to conserve 0.2 acres for winter habitat and 0.4 acres for breeding habitat for each acre of land taken for a solar installation. The new law pertains to all projects over 25 megawatts.

The push for renewable energy

New York's new system for regulating renewable energy projects – which remains the subject of a pending court challenge by a coalition of rural towns, conservation and advocacy groups – was adopted by the Legislature in 2020 as part of that year's state budget deal with the administration of then-Gov. Andrew Cuomo.

Its purpose was to speed up development of large-scale projects that would help the state meet its ambitious goals for renewable energy production. The state aims to draw 70 percent of its energy from renewable sources by 2030.

Shifting from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources has been a key goal of environmental groups that are concerned about mitigating the effects of climate change, and the state's focus on renewables has continued under Gov. Kathy Hochul.

In early June, Hochul announced awards for 22 large-scale solar and energy storage projects "that will deliver enough clean, affordable energy to power over 620,000 New York homes for at least 20 years." Among the projects selected was Boralex's proposed 100-megawatt solar facility in the towns of Fort Edward and Argyle.

The state also selected four other Boralex projects, totaling 440 megawatts, to be sited in northern New York, the Mohawk Valley and the greater Capital Region, including a 20-megawatt solar project in the town of Easton.

These projects appear to be Boralex's first solar installations in New York, although the company owns a small hydroelectric plant in Greenwich.

"Cuomo and Hochul have made renewable energy a very high priority," Roome said.

But she and others say the need for renewable energy production needs to be balanced against other environmental considerations.

Roome noted that a couple of years ago, another solar developer, CS Solar, opted not to pursue a solar project in Fort Edward to avoid the grasslands bird area. That company is currently building a large solar project along Route 40 in Easton in the southern part of the county.

But she said Boralex is interested in Fort Edward because of its proximity to a transmission line – and because the land is relatively inexpensive and wouldn't need to be cleared.

A rare expanse of open fields

The Washington County grasslands stretches across a vast, relatively flat valley of fields, meadows and wetlands along the western side of the county. The area encompasses about 13,000 acres in total, with striking views of the hills that roll away toward the Green Mountains in the east and

DO LED LIGHTS BOTHER YOU?

Many people are experiencing adverse reactions in response to LED lighting, ranging from headaches, nausea, racing heart and eye pain to neurological disturbances such as seizures, disorientation and loss of balance. Some affected individuals have existing light-sensitive medical conditions, but others do not. Their symptoms only occur when that person is exposed to LED light.

The Soft Lights Foundation is a registered non-profit advocating on behalf of people suffering LED-caused health impacts. The Foundation is in touch with thousands of light-sensitive people around the world, and hopes to learn more about just how widespread the problem actually is. If you or a family member is negatively affected by LED lighting, flashing or non-flashing, we are interested in hearing from you. We want to help.

Please contact: The Soft Lights Foundation www.softlight.org
9450 SW Gemini Drive, PMB Beaverton, Oregon 97008 or email: mbaker@softlights.org

the Adirondacks to the north. More than 100 different bird species breed, winter or migrate through this area.

The area is the largest contiguous grasslands complex in New York state east of the Hudson River. It provides critical habitat to songbirds like bobolinks, bluebirds and meadowlarks as well as to threatened and endangered raptors such as the northern harrier and the short-eared owl.

Audubon designated a 2,000-acre portion of the grasslands in Fort Edward, Argyle and Kingsbury as an "important bird area," or IBA, in 1997.

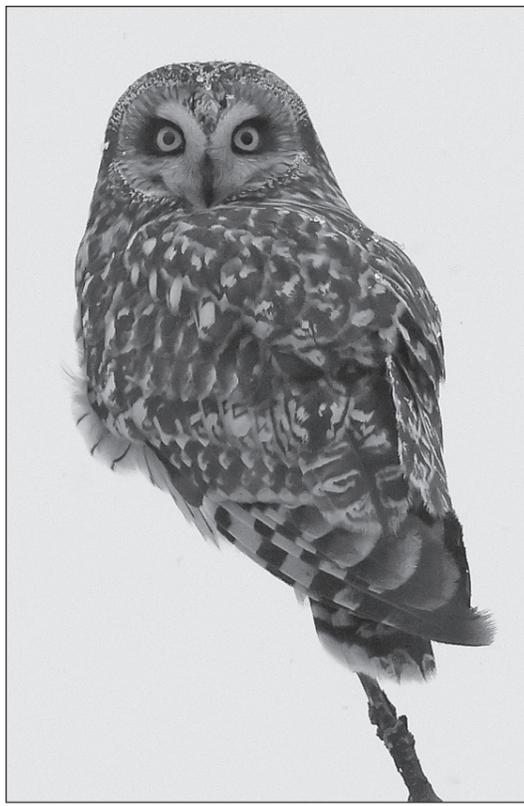
And in 2010, an organization called Friends of the IBA, which later became the Grassland Bird Trust, was formed to educate the public and advocate for imperiled grassland bird species and their disappearing habitat. The group raised awareness through a series of public programs, including a Winter Raptor Fest at which people could view the owls, harriers, hawks and falcons that spend their winters hunting in the grasslands.

The state Department of Environmental Conservation subsequently acquired 478 acres from a number of private landowners and created the Washington County Grasslands Wildlife Management Area. This area has three stated purposes: wildlife management, wildlife habitat management, and wildlife-dependent recreation such as bird watching and photography.

The Grassland Bird Trust owns conservation easements on 78 acres, which it manages for grassland bird habitat. Another 42-acre conservation easement of grassland habitat is located adjacent to the bird trust's easement, provided by a different solar energy company to mitigate the impacts of its 70-acre installation.

When the DEC began acquiring land for the Wildlife Management Area in 2014, local municipal officials expressed their worries about taking land off the tax rolls. The Grassland Bird Trust raised the issue with area legislators.

"We had Assembly member Carrie Woerner



Courtesy photo/Gordon Ellmers

The Fort Edward grasslands is considered vital to the survival of the endangered short-eared owl in New York. Although the owls were once common in the state, only 50 to 100 breeding pairs remain.

and state Sen. Betty Little introduce legislation in their respective houses," Renoni recalled. "It took three years to pass both houses and was signed into law in August 2018. It required DEC to pay the property taxes on the grassland wildlife management area land that it purchases in the towns of Fort Edward, Argyle and Kingsbury due to their depressed economic profiles. They argued that it was only fair to have the state contribute to the tax base as it does for the forever wild lands."

The resolution of the property tax issue elimi-

nated a source of tension with the town of Fort Edward and fostered greater support for the group's efforts to protect critical bird habitat.

Disappearing grassland birds

Although a series studies have documented an overall decline in bird populations in recent decades, the statistics for grassland birds show a particularly rapid decline. A 2019 study published in the journal Science found that North America has lost 25 percent of its birds since 1970, with grassland birds experiencing a steeper decline of 50 percent in that period. That amounts to a loss of 700 million grassland birds in 50 years.

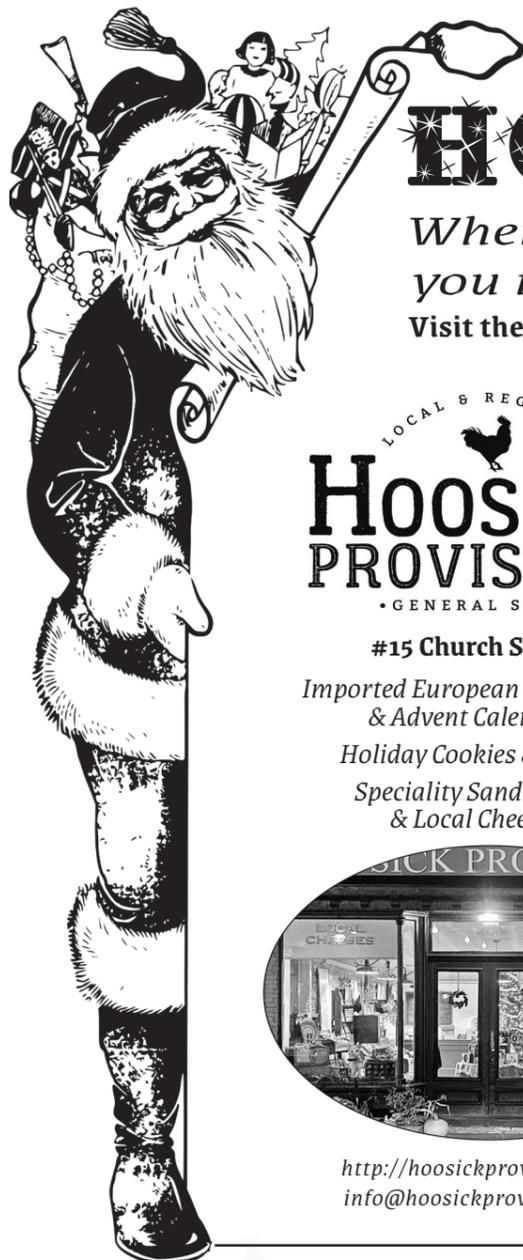
Grassland birds also are reproducing far less well than in the past. In New York, the DEC has reported a drop of 80 percent to 99 percent in grassland bird species breeding pairs over the last four decades. The agency attributes this decline to habitat loss and degradation.

A 2,000-acre core area of the Fort Edward Grasslands IBA is considered critical to the survival of short-eared owls in New York. Short-eared owls used to be the most common owl species in the state, outnumbering all other owls in lowlands and marshy areas. But today only 50 to 100 breeding pairs remain. According to the most recently published Breeding Bird Atlas, dated 2005 (the atlases only come out every 20 years), the remaining pairs of short-eared owls only breed within 12 square miles in the entire state.

Renoni said most biologists believe the short-eared owls decline results mainly from the loss of large, intact grasslands and other open habitats because of changing land-use patterns. Once agricultural fields are abandoned, they rapidly become unsuitable for these owls because the fields revert to forest or are replaced by development.

"The DEC biologist told us that the bigger the reserve, the more likely you'll get short-eared owls and harrier hawks to nest," Renoni said.

The Fort Edward bird area now offers "thousands of acres of potential habitat," Renoni said.



HOOSICK FALLS, NY

Where you'll find all the gifts, delectibles & decor you need to make this season merry & bright.

Visit these wonderful shops in the heart of Hoosick Falls' bustling Downtown Historic District.

LOCAL & REGIONAL
HOOSICK PROVISIONS
• GENERAL STORE •

#15 Church Street

Imported European Ornaments
& Advent Calendars
Holiday Cookies & Candy
Specialty Sandwiches
& Local Cheeses



<http://hoosickprovisions.com>
info@hoosickprovisions.com



WILDER'S CABINET

#5 John Street

Furniture, Home Goods
Antiques & Decor
Preserved & Silk
Foliage & Florals

www.facebook.com/wilderscabinet
wilderscabinet@gmail.com

smallsong
GALLERY & GOODS

#7 John Street

Global Fair Trade
Local Artisans & Artists
Small Makers, Good Causes
Handmade Goods



www.facebook.com/smallsonghf
smallsonghf@gmail.com

Much of this open land can function as winter habitat for raptors when hay farms “go silent” after the growing season ends, he said. In the winter, raptors migrate from the north, seeking grasslands where they can hunt small rodents, such as voles.

Birds among the solar panels

There has been little academic research into the effects of solar farms on grassland birds. Keith Swenson, president of the Grassland Bird Trust, said he’s not aware of any pertinent studies involving the grassland species of the Northeast.

What is known, however, is that raptors such as the short-eared owl and northern harrier fly close to the ground while seeking their prey. New York lists these birds respectively as endangered and threatened. An industrial-scale solar project would not be compatible with their hunting behavior.

In the Boralex project, solar panels would be installed high above the ground on posts. An aisle nearly 30 feet wide would be placed between rows to maximize the efficiency of the solar panels.

(The spacing prevents one row of panels from shading the next.)

Officials of the bird trust say some smaller birds, such as sparrows, finches and other songbirds, will probably be able to live, breed and feed under and around photovoltaic panels. But these are not the threatened or endangered birds the trust is trying to protect.

The Fort Edward area has become prime habitat for grassland birds because its poorly drained, clay soils prevent the growing of corn and other row crops, leaving hayfields as the prevalent agricultural enterprise.

Because most grassland birds build their nests on the ground in the late spring, however, successful breeding is incompatible with the standard haying schedule, which involves a first cutting in late May or June. Survival of fledglings requires this initial mowing to be much delayed.

Swenson said that his organization is working with the American Bird Trust and National Audubon Society to find a way to protect important bird habitat from Boralex’s solar project.

New rules and a legal challenge

The Legislature created the state Office of Renewable Energy Siting in 2020 when it passed the Accelerated Renewable Energy Growth and Community Benefit Act as part of the annual state budget. The purpose of the law – and the new agency – is to fast-track the siting of industrial-scale wind and solar energy projects. This in turn will help the state to meet its goal of producing a much larger share of its energy from renewable sources.

But this approach has drawn opposition. In June 2021, a coalition of towns, community organizations and bird advocacy groups challenged the Office of Renewable Energy Siting in court, arguing that the new agency’s regulations fail to comply with the State Environmental Quality Review Act. The longstanding environmental law requires “all state and local government agencies to consider environmental impacts equally with social and economic factors” when taking government action.

Ben Wisniewski, the main lawyer representing the plaintiffs in the case, is also representing

ANTIQUES OF THE HILL COUNTRY

BOOKS
Antiquarian, Rare, Vintage & Used

1786 WILSON HOMESTEAD
OLD BOOKS & ANTIQUES

NY & VT HISTORY
♦Architecture ♦Antiques ♦Art ♦Cookbooks ♦Travel ♦Women ♦Decorative Arts ♦Native American

♦Children's Illustrated ♦Natural History ♦Gardening ♦Biography ♦History ♦Diaries ♦Textiles ♦Poetry ♦Fiction & more!

ALL BOOKS 20% OFF
CHICKEN COOP ANNEX OPEN!

NONFICTION for the CURIOUS
Open Weekends May- Oct or by Appointment all year
518.854.3134 • Hebron NY 12865
7 mi. N. of Salem, NY off NYS Rt.22, 1/2 mi. W. on Chamberlin Mills Rd

FORT ANNE ANTIQUES
WHITEHALL ANTIQUES MALL

10120 Route 4 Whitehall, NY
OPEN EVERY DAY 10-5

10,000 SQ.FT. MULTI DEALER SHOP

518-499-2915
whitehallantiquemall.com

Jewelry • Glass • China • Tools
Paper • Furniture • Glassware
Coins • Vintage Clothes • Ephemera
Books • Architectural • Garden Statuary



The Village Booksmith
Choice of readers & collectors since 1976

223 Main Street
In Hudson Falls on US 4
Opposite the Strand Theater
Friday - Saturday 11 to 4

518 747-3261 • thebooksmith@earthlink.net

OLD BOOK SURFER
Has "Stacks" of Winter Reading!

• Local History, including Vt. & Adks.
• Art, Film, Theater Subjects / People
• Books About Sports & Music Stars
• Pocket Paperbacks, Travel, History
• Popular Fiction to Collectible Books
• Mysteries, Sci-Fi, Nature, Antiques

Open 1-6 pm, Wed. to Sun. 518-229-0562
2823 Rt. 22 Cambridge, NY www.oldbooksurfer.com

USED ANTIQUARIAN RARE **HERMIT HILL BOOKS** BOUGHT & SOLD

Great Books for the Whole Family
Greeting Cards

Open Wednesday - Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm
95 Main Street, Poultney, VT 05764
802-287-5757 • hermithill12@gmail.com

Washington County Antiques Trail

Fort Ann Antique Center
10120 Rt. 4, Whitehall, NY
Jewelry • Glass • China • Tools
Furniture • Coins • Vintage Clothes
10 to 5 Everyday
518-499-2915

Wilson Homestead Old Books & Antiques
1117 Chamberlin Mills Rd.
Hebron NY (Salem PO)
OPEN BY APPOINTMENT ALL YEAR
518-854-3134

Owl Pen Books
166 Riddle Rd, Greenwich NY
Books, Used & Antiquarian Prints & Ephemera, Vinyl
Shop open April 2023
Always online @ owlpenbooks.com
518-692-7039

Cambridge Antiques Center
30 W. Main St, Cambridge NY
Quality Antiques & Accessories
cambridgeantiquescenter.com
Daily 10-5
518-677-8359

Eagle Bridge Antique Center
152 St. Rt. 67, Eagle Bridge NY
Antiques and Accessories
Every Day 10-5
518-686-4238

*Map not to scale

Map locations: WHITEHALL, Chamberlin Mills Rd., SALEM, GREENWICH, EASTON, SHUSHAN, EAGLE BRIDGE, CAMBRIDGE.

Map routes: RT. 4, RT. 22, RT. 29, RT. 61, RT. 67, RT. 372, RT. 40.

rural towns, civic groups and conservation organizations in individual cases in which fast-tracked renewable energy projects threaten vulnerable bird species or disregard community character concerns and municipal land use rules.

“My complaints have to do with the process,” Wisniewski said.

The court challenge was brought by a coalition of six rural upstate towns, including the Columbia County town of Copake, as well as community organizations and bird groups including the American Bird Conservancy, Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society, Genesee Valley Audubon Society and Rochester Birding Association.

The plaintiffs don’t aim to prevent solar or wind energy projects. Rather, they seek to require the state’s renewable energy office to adopt new regulations that would minimize the impacts of large-scale energy projects on biodiversity and rural upstate communities’ land use regulations.

A state Supreme Court justice in Albany County ruled against the plaintiffs in September 2021, but an appeal is pending.

“I think as a legal matter our appellate case is quite strong,” said William Sheehan, the general counsel and vice president of the American Bird Conservancy.

He noted that the renewable energy office has not yet responded to the appellate brief. The agency’s response was originally due in July, Sheehan said, but it has asked for, and been granted, at least three extensions.

Ignoring risks to wildlife?

Under the regulations the groups are seeking to overturn, each application for a large renewable energy project must be deemed complete within 60 days after submission, and each project must be approved within a year.

These new regulations establish uniform conditions for all such projects, without regard to a municipality’s existing land use rules or the existence of sensitive ecosystems or at-risk wildlife. In fact, the new renewable energy siting law supersedes all municipal laws and regulations. The Office of Renewable Energy Siting has the authority to waive a local law if it “unduly burdens the environmental benefits of a renewable energy project.”

In their court challenge, opponents contend the inflexible timelines enshrined in the regulations will not always be sufficient for appropriate wildlife field studies to be conducted. But if deadlines are not met, the regulations require that

projects receive automatic approval by default.

The plaintiffs argue that the new regulations do nothing to ensure that projects are sited in locations that minimize risks to vulnerable wildlife. For example, the Heritage Wind project in Orleans County is proposed adjacent to a high-biodiversity wetland complex that supports nesting bald eagles and many rare species and is a stop on a major migratory pathway for birds.

“I think we’re in a climate where the deck is completely stacked in favor of renewable energy,” Sheehan said, though he stressed that “we’re not opposed to renewable energy.”

Rather, he said, his organization objects to projects proposed for inappropriate sites.

“In the U.S., there are 1,500 wind projects,” Sheehan said. “The American Bird Conservancy has opposed about five of them because they were badly sited and would be perilous to migratory birds.”

Audubon predicts that two-thirds of bird species will face extinction because of climate change, and bird advocates say they understand the need to move away from the burning of fossil fuels. But they also say biodiversity and ecosystem health shouldn’t need to be sacrificed for the expansion of renewable energy.

Destination:

BENNINGTON, VT

THE SHIRES OF VERMONT
BENNINGTON - MANCHESTER

Aloha Om
WELLNESS COLLECTIVE
YOGA • MARTIAL ARTS • MASSAGE THERAPY
Empowering our community to Thrive
GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE
www.AlohaOm.com • 802-430-1799
Historic Benmont Mill Suite 460, Mill Tower Entrance

Jay's Art Supplies
Framed Art
Custom Framing
GIFTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS!
Yankee Candle, Snoozie slippers, Stoneware Pottery
All new Melissa & Doug educational toys
113-115 South Street, Downtown Bennington, VT
OPEN 7 DAYS
www.jaysartshop.com • 802-447-2342

The Place To Shop For Jewelry and Fine Gifts

E.L. Designs
ED LEHMAN STUDIO

jewelry • accessories • pottery • glass • wood
bags • toys • games • new & gently used clothing
watches & watch battery replacement

open daily 10 - 5:30
Mon-Sat
Sun 11-4

hawkins house
free gift wrapping

262 north st. • 802-447-0488 • hawkinshouse.com

‘Home for the Holidays’
7p Sat. 12/17 & 2p Sun. 12/18
Bennington Performing Arts Center

GETTING TO BENNINGTON

- from Cambridge 30 minutes
- from Glens Falls 1 hour, 30 minutes
- from Great Barrington 1 hour, 20 minutes
- from Hudson 1 hour 30 minutes
- from Manchester 30 minutes
- from Pittsfield 50 minutes
- from Saratoga Springs 1 hour, 15 minutes
- from Williamstown 20 minutes

See map on page 16

WINCHESTER'S
Store and Deli
Proudly Featuring
Boar's Head
PREMIUM DELI MEATS & CHEESES
Deli, Groceries, Food to Go
6185 Route 7 Pownal VT
802-823-5258
Tues-Fri 10-5, Sat & Sun 10-3 • Closed Mon.

Monument Vintage
ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES
435 Main Street • Bennington, VT 05201 • 802.440.5393
web: monumentvintage.com • email:monumentvtg@gmail.com
Check for our hours on Facebook

GIFT CERTIFICATES • VINYASA FLOW

the YOGA PLACE
Yoga & Pilates
Restore your body's natural grace and strength through guided yoga practice
Enjoy Life Practice Yoga
Schedule available on-line at
www.benningtonyoga.com
532 Main St., Bennington, VT
802-447-0393
(enter in back, above Panaché)

YOGA for MEN • YIN/YANG YOGA
TAI QI • MINDFULNESS • MEDITATION
CHAIR YOGA • VERY BEGINNER YOGA

We invite you to visit
VERMONT'S LARGEST FLOORING STORE
H BENNINGTON HOUSE OF TILE AND CARPET
TILE • CARPET • HARDWOOD • VINYL
SHOP LOCAL
1267 Harwood Hill Rd., Bennington, VT
benningtontile.com • 802-442-2494

NEWS & ISSUES

More jobs, fewer workers

Tight labor market shifts region's goals for economic development

By MAURY THOMPSON
Contributing writer

GRANVILLE, N.Y.

Washington County officials cheered this fall when Amazon announced plans to establish a regional distribution center in Granville.

But the question on the minds of some area business owners is just where the company will find the 200-plus workers needed to run the facility, given a national labor shortage that is already being felt acutely by many local businesses. Amazon has set a goal of opening the new distribution center by the middle of next year.

Laura Oswald, the county's economic development director, said Amazon is acutely aware of the challenge and has responded by



Joan K. Lentini photos

With businesses across the region struggling to recruit workers for routine operations, economic development officials say their focus now is on expanding the local labor pool as much as on wooing new employers.

starting its recruitment early and advertising across a larger geographic based than would be typical.

"They started recruiting before they even closed on the building," she said.

Amazon's wider net for recruitment will be essential at a time when the local work force has been shrinking and graying. Both Washington County and neighboring Rutland County, Vt., saw their overall population decline over the past decade.

As the labor shortage intensifies, some economic development and labor officials around the region have shifted much of their focus from attracting new employers to helping existing employers retain an adequate work force.

"It doesn't matter if we help with recruiting and posting jobs if a place of business has a revolving door of employees leaving," explained Liza Ochendorf, director of Warren County Office of Workforce Development.

The new Amazon center in Granville will occupy the former site of the Manchester Wood manufacturing business that closed in 2018. The site is less than 1,000 feet from the border of Vermont, where Gov. Phil Scott has said the ongoing labor shortage is the single most crucial challenge facing the state.

"If we don't right this ship, we'll continue to see

our work force shrink," Scott said at a press conference in April. "You'll hear this story over and over again: Good paying jobs are out there, but they're struggling to fill them."

Paying workers to move

The labor shortage has broadened economic development officials' traditional focus on business recruitment to include convincing people to move from other parts of the country to fill local jobs.

The state of Vermont, for example, is offering to pick up moving expenses for workers relocating from other states to take jobs.

Vermont, with 40 workers for every 100 job openings, has the most dire labor shortage — or as some prefer to call it, "talent gap" — of any state, according to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. The national ratio is 73 workers for every 100 job openings.

The Vermont Relocation Incentive Program offers grants of up to \$7,500 to reimburse moving expenses for workers who move from out of state to accept full-time employment with a Vermont employer at a wage that exceeds Vermont's designated livable wage, currently \$13.39 per hour. The grant is also available to remote workers who relocate to Vermont and continue their current employment.

Vermont's population increased in the

FALL FERTILIZATION FOR ESTABLISHED TREES AND SHRUBS

GREATER HEIGHTS

Late Fall Fertilization is important to deciduous trees and shrubs: they have lost their foliage for the year and active growth of plants and trees has slowed. Rather than put on new foliage growth, the roots of established trees or shrubs take the nutrients from the soil and apply them to important health-promoting functions, such as disease resistance and root development. The excess nutrients are stored in the roots and become immediately available when needed for new growth in spring.

Call us today at **802-823-5673** or email: treemail@gmail.com to schedule an assessment of your treescape.

www.GreaterHeightsTree.com
SERVING VT, MA & NY FOR 19 YEARS

Buy Local Elderberry Products

Traditional & Sugar Free Syrup

- Elderberries - Dried
- Elderflowers - Dried
- Elderberry Powder
- Elderberry Tinctures

ELDERBERRY SPRINGS FARM

www.ElderberrySprings.com • 518-659-1411
Elderberry Plant Cuttings: Jan.-Mar.
Free Shipping!

MARIO'S RESTAURANT
CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

New American Cuisine
Reservations recommended
(518) 794-9495

Routes 20 & 22, New Lebanon, NY
Open daily except Tuesday from 4 p.m.

decade leading up to the 2020 census, but the demographics of its work force have changed, said Matthew Barewicz, a state Labor Department economist, at a press conference with Scott in April, a video of which the governor's office posted on Facebook.

The share of people between the ages of 35 and 54, which are considered the prime working years, has decreased from about one-third to about one-quarter of the state's total population, Barewicz explained. Meanwhile, the share of those aged 55 and over increased from less than one-fourth of Vermont's population in 2000 to one-third in 2020.

Oswald, the Washington County economic development director, said she is not aware of any discussion of New York pursuing a relocation incentive program similar to Vermont's. But she said private companies in many cases are recruiting from outside the region.

The labor-force trends have made quality of life and community more essential to economic development, Oswald said.

"You also need to pay attention to what your communities look like," she said. "Why do your kids want to come back and live here?"

Tricia Rogers, the president and chief executive of the Adirondack Regional Chamber of Commerce, said the chamber and EDC Warren County are working on an initiative to make sure there is sufficient affordable housing for new workers relocating to the region – and to retain existing employees.

Other regional employment experts said the labor shortage has increased the importance of employee retention and worker training.

Vacant jobs, empowered workers?

Workers are in short supply in virtually every economic sector, both nationally and locally.

"There is not an employer large or small that I know of that is not having a problem with it," Oswald said. "I talked to one employer yesterday that said, 'We could hire 15 machinists tomorrow if we could find them.'"

Retail stores and restaurants have been

forced to reduce hours, or in some cases go out of business, because they can't find enough help.

The lack of workers also has hastened the trend of retail chains switching from brick-and-mortar to online business models.

Even county governments, whose jobs historically have been highly desired because of their stability, are facing labor shortages, Oswald said. By the time applicants get through the civil service process, they often have already found more lucrative jobs in the private sector, she said.

The challenge for employers has become an opportunity for workers, who lately have been enjoying unusual upward mobility in the labor force.

What some are calling "The Great Resignation," because of the large number of people leaving jobs, could more accurately be called "The Great Reshuffle," analyst Stephanie Ferguson wrote in an Oct. 31 U.S. Chamber of Commerce report.

The most severe labor shortages, according to the report, are in durable goods manufacturing, wholesale and retail trade, education and health care.

"Even if every unemployed person with experience in the durable goods manufacturing industry were employed, the industry would only fill half the vacant jobs," Ferguson wrote.

That means the 85 employees who will be laid off next year as a result of the recently announced closing of the Lehigh Hansen cement plant in Glens Falls should not have difficulty finding new jobs.

In Vermont, Scott has said construction trades are being hit hardest with labor shortages.

Sectors that hire unskilled workers have less severe shortages but are struggling with high turnover.

Nationally, the leisure and hospitality trade is experiencing the highest turnover rate, with 956,000 employees leaving jobs in August, while 1.1 million new employees were hired, according to Ferguson's report. The retail trade was a close second.

Compared with other states, Vermont, New York and Massachusetts are near the middle of the pack in terms of the increase in job openings from pre-pandemic levels.

In New York, the increase in job openings between February 2020 and September 2022 falls somewhere between 10 percent and 39 percent, the second lowest of four categories. Vermont and Massachusetts have seen increases of 40 percent to 69 percent, the second highest of four categories.

Pandemic speeds ongoing trends

The pandemic is a factor in the labor shortage, but the issue is more complex and will remain a challenge for the foreseeable future, labor experts said.

After the pandemic, many workers in their mid-50s and early 60s decided to retire early rather than return to their longtime jobs, said state Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner, D-Round Lake, who is chairwoman of the state Legislative Commission on Skills Development and Career Education.

Others had time during the pandemic to pursue hobbies and outside interests and decided to try to turn those activities into businesses, rather than returning to their previous jobs. As a result, the rate of new business start-ups in New York has increased over the past year, Woerner said.

Some industries, particularly tourism, were experiencing labor shortages even before the pandemic, as evidenced by an increasing reliance on seasonal workers from overseas, Ochsendorf said.

The aging of baby boomers out of the work force is another factor.

"The baby boomers were born into families with four or more children, but they had only two children. So essentially, they did not replace themselves," Ochsendorf said.

Finding enough workers will continue to be a challenge in the future, because many younger couples are deciding not to have children at all, she said.

Destination: SARATOGA SPRINGS & SCHUYLerville

M State of the art dentistry and hometown care.

MERRYMAN FAMILY DENTISTRY Jacob Merryman, DDS (518) 695-9015

92 Broad Street, Schuylerville NY 12871 merrymanfamilydentistry.com

Four Seasons Natural Foods

Saratoga's Center for Natural Foods since 1988

Organic Produce, Vitamins, Herbs, Bulk, Paninis, Fresh Juices & Shakes, Daily Specials, Take-Out, Open 8-8 daily

120 Henry Street 518-584-4670

FourSeasonsNaturalFoods.com

Saratoga Apple
Best Apple Selection
Open Year Round
7 DAYS 9am-6pm
12 local ciders and beers on tap

Facebook Instagram Twitter

Route 29 Schuylerville, NY

Olde Saratoga Home Garden
Solar & Wind Powered

warm fire ADK bird houses
BEESWAX CANDLES HIVE WARMED HONEY Lawn Ornaments
HOLIDAY DECORATIONS NY NURTURED CHRISTMAS TREES wreaths
GIFTS OF THE HEART kissing balls

SHARE YOUR BLESSINGS
Open Every Day From 10-6

934 Rt. 29 East • Saratoga Springs, NY 518-695-4834
OldeSaratogaHomeandGarden.com

Saratoga Holiday Market with local artists and artisans
Fridays & Saturdays, Dec. 2-24
at Saratoga Arts, 320 Broadway
New artists each weekend

AMIGOS CANTINA

Schuylerville, NY [skahy-ler-vil]
"you might not be able to spell or say it...but the food sure is good!"

AMIGOS CANTINA
DINE IN WED-SAT 4:30-9 (UNTIL WE ARE MORE FULLY STAFFED)
RESERVATIONS RECOMMENDED
INDOOR AND OUTDOOR SEATING (518) 695-9595
TAKEOUT TUES-SAT 4:30-8:30
AMIGOS2GO.COM (SORRY, NO PHONE ORDERS)
42 FERRY STREET

“We were going to face a work force shortage in four or five years, but the pandemic accelerated it,” Woerner said.

“You could have predicted 60 years ago that this was going to come,” but no one could have predicted the trend would be accelerated by the pandemic, said Oswald, the Washington County economic development director.

Shortages of child care and limited public transportation also are factors, she said.

Although retention has become a priority for employers, Rogers, of Adirondack Regional Chamber of Commerce, said wages aren't the only consideration. In many cases, she said, employers are offering increased paid time off, flexible work schedules and the option for employees to work remotely – considerations that add value beyond financial incentives.

“It's the whole package,” she said.

Oswald said employers are relying more on automation, whether in manufacturing or in restaurants, where customers may now place orders via an app rather than to an in-person server.

Woerner said it's important to evaluate the success of work force training programs and be able to respond quickly to emerging needs of employers. She said she has been studying local

work force development initiatives throughout the state to determine how the state could be more effective.

Woerner pointed, for example, to a computer database system that Monroe County Community College uses to track employer needs. The system allows the college to focus on training in fields that will allow students to find immediate employment. She is working to get funding to expand that system statewide.

Woerner also is focusing on expanding work force training programs at community colleges and BOCES campuses, the regional vocational training centers for New York's secondary school students. Individual programs need to be tailored to fit the specific needs in the communities that a community college or BOCES school serves, she said.

Expanding the labor pool

Officials now are focusing on segments such as youth, the disabled, and individuals with criminal records – population segments from which employers previously were reluctant to hire, said Ochsendorf, the director of Warren County Office of Workforce Development.

The state Department of Labor recently authorized counties to spend up to half of their

federal employment funding for youth ages 14 to 24 on school-age youth programs. Previously only up to 25 percent could be spent on school-age youth programs, with the rest spent to assist those in their late teens and early 20s.

Nationally, Ochsendorf said, the youth employment rate is the lowest it has been in recent years.

“Our area especially has an aging population, and we need the younger generations to learn the skills for our local in-demand industries to take these jobs,” she said.

Ochsendorf said officials also are working to show employers that those with criminal records can be rehabilitated and that the disabled can be competent part-time employees.

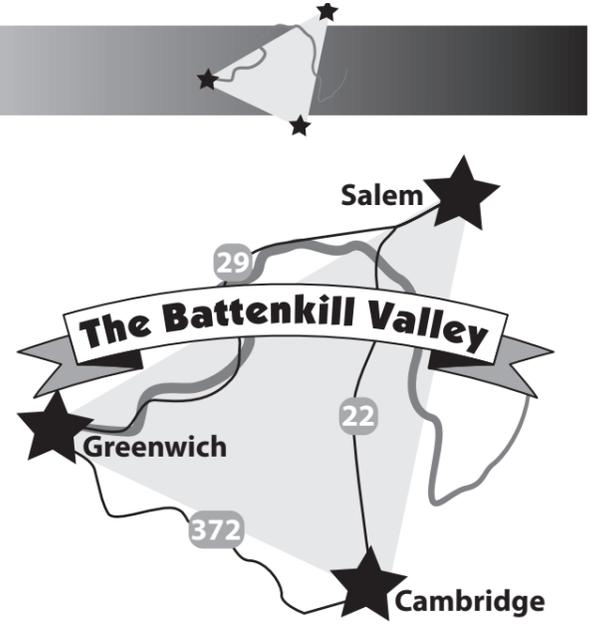
“Only about 30 percent of New Yorkers with disabilities are employed, and we can do better,” she said.

The economic downturn is drawing some older workers back into the work force, said Barewicz, the Vermont Labor Department economist.

“I think we're having a new trend emerging in the labor force called ‘un-retirement,’” he said. It's possible that we're going to see un-retirements and more of the ‘encore careers,’ individuals coming into the labor force,” he said.

The Battenkill Valley SALEM, NY

SALEM, NEW YORK
Arts. Antiques. Agriculture
Visit. Experience. Explore
 SALEM AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, PO BOX 717, SALEM NY 12865 (518) 854-9200



Fiber Kingdom
Products for the Discerning Fiber Artist & Crafts Person
Luxury Fibers, Spinning Wheels, Looms
Wool & Angora Hand-dyed Socks
Instructions, Angora Rabbits on Premises
 137 East Broadway Salem NY
 518.854.7225
 e-mail: sfgraham@verizon.net

SALEM NY
A & J Enterprises of Salem
Serving New York and Vermont
 Animal Feed, Lumber, Carhartt, Toys, Boots,
 Bird Seeds and Feeders PROPANE
 7 Thomas Street, Salem, NY • 518-854-7414

SALEM
 HARDWARE & SUPPLY
 200 MAIN STREET SALEM NY 12865
 518-854-3113

The BUNKER HILL Inn
Bed and Breakfast
 412 BUNKER HILL ROAD SALEM NY, 12865
 (518) 854-9339 www.bunkerhillinn.com
 E-mail: bunkwell@gmail.com

Gardenworks Farm, LLC
WREATHS
TREES & KISSING BALLS
Festive Food Baskets & Trimmings
25% OFF Holiday Ornaments
Store open
Wed-Sat 9-5, Sunday 11-5
Closed Mon & Tues
 1055 County Route 30, Salem, NY
 5 miles NW of light
 518-854-3250
www.Gardenworksfarm.com

GETTING TO SALEM

- from Bennington: 45 minutes
- from Glens Falls: 50 minutes
- from Great Barrington: 1 hour, 55 minutes
- from Hudson: 1 hour, 55 minutes
- from Manchester: 35 minutes
- from Pittsfield: 1 hour, 30 minutes
- from Saratoga Springs: 45 minutes
- from Williamstown: 1 hour

See map on page 16

PAUL KOBYLUCH
CABINET MAKER - CRAFTSMAN
 Cabinets of all Kinds • Custom Furniture
 Doors and Mantels • All Hand-Made
Fully Insured
 Office, Shop & Fax (518) 854-9552
 77 Riley Hill Road, Salem, NY 12865
pkobyluch@gmail.com

BLIND BUCK INTERIORS
Designer Fabric Outlet
 • Custom Draperies • Upholstery
 • Window Treatments • Slipcovers
Energy Saving and Solar Screen Shades
 By Appointment
 518-854-9361
 190 Main Street
 Salem NY 12865
blindbuckinteriors.com

ELECTION 2022 RESULTS

Here are the results of the Nov. 8 general election for federal and state offices across the region. Winning candidates are in boldface type if the outcome is not in dispute. Incumbents are marked with an asterisk (*).

Figures for Massachusetts and Vermont are final, official returns recorded by the secretary of state's office in each state. Figures for New York are most recent figures available from the state Board of Elections as of Nov. 30 but are not final, certified results.

C – Conservative Party	i – independent (no party)
D – Democratic Party	L – Libertarian Party
GM – Green Mountain Party	P – Progressive Party
GR – Green-Rainbow Party	R – Republican Party
	W – Workers Party
	WF – Working Families Party

MASSACHUSETTS

GOVERNOR AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Geoff Diehl and Leah Allen (R) 859,433 (34.6%)
Maura Healey and Kim Driscoll (D) 1,581,214 (63.8%)
 Kevin Reed and Peter Everett (L) 39,205 (1.6%)

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Andrea Joy Campbell (D) 1,537,726 (62.9%)
 James R. McMahon III (R) 907,390 (37.1%)

SECRETARY OF STATE

Rayla Campbell (R) 721,261 (29.4%)
*** William Francis Galvin (D) 1,663,496 (67.7%)**
 Juan Sanchez (GR) 71,662 (2.9%)

STATE TREASURER

Cristina Crawford (L) 515,482 (23.2%)
*** Deborah B. Goldberg (D) 1,707,296 (76.8%)**

STATE AUDITOR

Anthony Amore (R) 896,186 (37.7%)
 Gloria A. Caballero-Roca (GR) 68,593 (2.9%)
Diana DiZoglio (D) 1,309,008 (55.1%)
 Dominic Giannone III (i) 51,841 (2.2%)
 Daniel Riek (L) 48,529 (2.0%)

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, 1ST DISTRICT

Dean James Martilli (R) 98,386 (38.4%)
*** Richard E. Neal (D) 157,635 (61.6%)**

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL, 8TH DISTRICT

John M. Comerford (R) 104,839 (38.1%)
Tara J. Jacobs (D) 170,120 (61.9%)

STATE SENATE

(Berkshire, Hampden, Franklin & Hampshire District)
Paul W. Mark (D) 47,989 (76.4%)
 Brendan M. Phair (i) 14,806 (23.6%)

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Third Berkshire District
 Michael Silvio Lavery (GR) 1,698 (9.4%)
*** William "Smitty" Pignatelli (D) 16,340 (90.6%)**

BALLOT PROPOSITIONS

Question 1 -- Income tax constitutional amendment

A Yes vote supported amending the state constitution to establish a 4 percent income tax on the portion of taxable income in excess of \$1 million, beginning with tax year 2023. The amendment specifies that the threshold for the tax will be adjusted upward annually to account for inflation and that revenues raised from the tax will be used for education and transportation. State lawmakers have already backed the proposal by wide margins in two successive legislative sessions, so approval by voters is the final step in enacting the measure.

Yes 1,265,815 (52.3%)
 No 1,156,323 (47.7%)

Question 2 -- Regulation of dental insurance

A Yes vote enacts a new law requiring dental insurance companies in Massachusetts to spend at least 83 percent of premiums on member dental expenses and quality improvements rather than on administrative expenses. Supporters said the law would ensure better coverage for patients while reducing corporate waste, while opponents claimed it would prompt companies to raise insurance rates.

Yes 1,717,895 (71.6%)
 No 681,238 (28.4%)

Question 3 -- Licensing for alcohol sales

A Yes vote would have gradually increased the number of licenses a single retailer could have for beer and wine sales from the current cap of nine locations statewide to as many as 18 by 2031.

The proposal was put forth by the Massachusetts Package Store Association, which cast it as a compromise with convenience store chains that have been pushing for the right to sell beer and wine more widely.

But the proposal was opposed by chains such as Cumberland Farms, which currently is allowed to sell beer and

wine at only nine of its roughly 200 stores in Massachusetts. These retailers want broader changes to the state's system of regulating alcohol sales.

Yes 1,069,921 (44.9%)
No 1,312,906 (55.1%)

Question 4 -- Eligibility for driver's licenses

A Yes vote supported a law the Legislature passed earlier this year allowing undocumented immigrants to obtain driver's licenses if they meet the state's other licensing requirements. The new law, which the Legislature overrode Gov. Charlie Baker's veto to pass, allows drivers to use a valid foreign passport or certain consular documents to prove their identity, as long as they can verify residency in the state, pass required tests and buy insurance.

Proponents say the law will reduce the number of uninsured drivers and hit-and-run accidents, citing the experience of 17 other states with similar laws. Opponents, who petitioned for a statewide vote, argued that the law effectively rewards people who've come to the country illegally. A No vote would have repealed the law, which now takes effect in July 2023.

Yes 1,298,399 (53.9%)
 No 1,108,985 (46.1%)

OVERVIEW

Maura Healey cruised to victory in the race for governor, becoming the first woman to win election to the state's top job and the first lesbian to be elected as a governor in the United States.

She is also only the second Democrat since 1990 to win the governor's office in Massachusetts. Despite its deep blue complexion, the state's voters have elected a series of centrist Republicans who've held the office for 24 of the past 32 years. Healey, the state attorney general for the past eight years, will take over from Republican Charlie Baker, who opted not to run again.

Democratic candidates easily won every other statewide race on the ballot, including the contest to succeed Healey as attorney general. Andrea Joy Campbell, a former Boston City Council president, won that position with Healey's strong support and becomes the first Black woman elected to statewide office in Massachusetts.

continued on next page



GREATER GREENWICH EST. 1990
Grow with us! Join today!
 Helping businesses succeed since 1990
 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
 Our mission is to support, promote, and attract business for the advancement of our community
greenwichchamber.org/join

BE SOCIAL!
 Follow our socials to see our holiday hours and January promotions!
 @JUSTBECAUSEGREENWICH
 518.692.2670
 JUST-BECAUSE.SHOPLIGHTSPEED.COM
 jb | GREENWICH NEW YORK | jib deaux

Country Power Products, Inc.
Country Living Center
 locally owned by the Rieger Family for over 50 Years
GET READY FOR CHRISTMAS
 Carhartt + Boots + Farm Toys + Melissa & Doug
 Gifts for Gardeners + Bird & Pet Lovers
 Stihl & DR Equipment + Trees + Wreaths + Kissing Balls
 Gift Certificates Available
 Open 7 days: M-F 7-5:30, Sat. 8-5, Sun. 9-5
 2339 St. Rt. 40 South, Greenwich NY 12834
 518-692-1015 We ship UPS Monday-Friday

GETTING TO GREENWICH

- from Bennington: 45 minutes
- from Glens Falls: 45 minutes
- from Hudson: 1 hour, 40 minutes
- from Manchester: 50 minutes
- from Pittsfield: 1 hour, 30 minutes
- from Saratoga Springs: 30 minutes
- from Williamstown: 1 hour

See map on page 16

Elsasser's
 EST. 2020
Beim
 One One One
ALSATIAN RESTAURANT
Food, Wine, & Warmth
 111
 4pm - Close Monday - Saturday
 111 Main Street Greenwich, NY
 518-531-4777 www.elsassers111.com

Election *continued from previous page*

Locally, the legislative delegation from Berkshire County will be reshuffled after redistricting eliminated one of the area's four seats in the state House.

State Rep. Paul Mark, D-Becket, easily won the area's lone state Senate seat, taking the place of Adam Hinds, who opted not to seek another term. Mark opted to run for Senate after new House district maps placed him in the same district as Rep. William "Smitty" Pignatelli, D-Lenox, the dean of the Berkshires legislative delegation.

Incumbent state Reps. John Barrett III, D-North Adams, and Tricia Farley-Bouvier, D-Pittsfield, were re-elected without opposition.

In races statewide, the already heavily Democratic state House became even more so. The party already held 127 of the chamber's 160 seats before the election. As of late November, Democrats had secured 132 seats and were leading in one of two additional races that hadn't been called. In the state Senate, Democrats retained 37 of the chamber's 40 seats, the same number as before the election.

After winning an upset in September's Democratic primary, North Adams School Committee member Tara Jacobs will bring a rare Berkshires voice to the Governor's Council.

NEW YORK

GOVERNOR AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

* **Kathy C. Hochul and Antonio Delgado (D, WF)** 3,034,801 (52.9%)
Lee Zeldin and Alison Esposito (R, C) 2,705,908 (47.1%)

STATE COMPTROLLER

* **Thomas P. DiNapoli (D, WF)** 3,197,291 (57.0%)
Paul Rodriguez (R, C) 2,412,972 (43.0%)

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Michael Henry (R, C) 2,578,147 (45.7%)
* **Letitia A. James (D, WF)** 3,062,569 (54.3%)

U.S. SENATOR

Joe Pinion (R, C) 2,451,144 (43.1%)
Diane Sare (i) 25,827 (0.5%)
* **Charles E. Schumer (D, WF)** 3,204,252 (56.4%)

STATEWIDE BALLOT PROPOSITION

A Yes vote on Question 1 approved a \$4.2 billion environmental bond act to support capital projects for flood risk reduction, open space and land conservation and recreation and water quality improvements and infrastructure.
Yes 3,430,315 (67.4%)
No 1,659,406 (32.6%)

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE -- 19TH DISTRICT

(Columbia and 10 other counties west of the Hudson)
Marcus Molinaro (R, C) 143,978 (51.1%)
Josh Riley (D, WF) 137,843 (48.9%)

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE -- 20TH DISTRICT

(Saratoga, Albany and Schenectady counties plus the city of Troy)
Elizabeth L. Joy (R, C) 130,013 (45.0%)
* **Paul D. Tonko (D, WF)** 159,018 (55.0%)

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE -- 21ST DISTRICT

(Warren and Washington counties, Rensselaer County except Troy, plus 12 other counties to the north and west)
Matt Castelli (D, i) 113,255 (40.6%)
* **Elise M. Stefanik (R, C)** 165,634 (59.4%)

STATE SUPREME COURT JUSTICE -- 3RD DISTRICT

(Columbia and Rensselaer plus five other counties) (3 seats, 14-year terms)
Heidi Thais Cochrane (D) 163,777
Megan K. Galligan (D) 167,627
Sharon A. Graff (D) 165,824
Thomas J. Marcelle (R, C) 164,776

STATE SUPREME COURT JUSTICE -- 4TH DISTRICT

(Saratoga, Warren, Washington plus eight other counties) (3 seats, 14-year terms)
Teneka Frost (D) 124,880
Richard A. Kupferman (R) 155,300
Allison M. McGahay (R, C) 184,051
* **Robert J. Muller (D, C)** 148,909
Chris Obstarczyk (R) 147,153
Vincent W. Versaci (D, C) 147,110

STATE SENATE

41st district (Columbia, Greene and parts of Dutchess and Ulster counties)
* **Michelle Hinchey (D, WF)** 73,444 (52.6%)
* Susan J. Serino (R, C, i) 66,180 (47.4%)

43rd district (Rensselaer County, most of Washington County and northwestern Albany County)
Jacob C. Ashby (R, C) 61,731 (52.8%)
Andrea Smyth (D, WF) 55,141 (47.2%)

44th district (Saratoga County and part of Schenectady County)
Michelle Ostrelch (D, WF) 53,648 (43.4%)
* **James N. Tedisco (R, C)** 70,094 (56.6%)

45th district (Warren, Essex, Clinton, Franklin and parts of Washington and St. Lawrence counties)
Jean A. Lapper (D) 43,919 (39.6%)
* **Daniel G. Stec (R, C)** 67,041 (60.4%)

STATE ASSEMBLY

106th district (parts of Columbia and Dutchess counties)
* **Didi Barrett (D)** 30,103 (54.2%)
Brandon Craig Gaylord (R, C) 25,435 (45.8%)



Holiday Gift Guide

SHOP SMALL

Shop Local, Eat Local, Spend Local and Enjoy Local
It takes you to start the trend!

Cambridge Valley Farmers Market

Sundays 12-2 • New Time
DECEMBER 4TH, 11TH AND 18TH
in the BRIEMAN BUILDING on PARK PLACE next to CAMBRIDGE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Beef • Pork • Poultry
Veggies • Eggs • Grain
Artisan Breads • Sweet Treats
Maple Syrup • Mushrooms

January - May 2023 Open 2nd and 4th Sundays
visit cambridgevalleyfarmersmarket.com for info

Music in the Depot

ARGYLE BREWING, 6 BROAD ST. CAMBRIDGE NY

12/3 Wynotte Sisters Christmas Show
12/10 Holiday Makers Market
12/11 Brunch featuring Seth Warden
12/14 Kuf Knotz and Christine Elise
12/17 TV Doctors
12/18 Brunch featuring Drank the Gold
12/18 Christmas with the Bluebillies

Tickets available in house or @brownpapertickets.com
Check out facebook @ArgyleBrewingCambridge

28 DEALERS FROM 4 STATES

Two floors with beautiful displays of furniture, lighting, rugs, garden, china, glass and accessories from formal to country.

Open Everyday April-December 10-5
Jan - March Closed Wed.

Cambridge Antiques Center
30 West Main Street
Cambridge, NY 12816
(518)677-8359

www.cambridgeantiquescenter.com

THE BUSY BEE FLORIST

518-677-5780
Monday - Friday 10-7
Saturday 10-2
www.TheBusyBeeFlorist.com

1 Park Place, Cambridge NY 12816

CAMBRIDGE FOOD CO-OP

Join us this winter for **MEMBER MIXERS** @ARGYLE BREWING CO.

a community-owned grocery store

518-677-5731
One West Main St., Cambridge, NY

Providing you with local, natural, and organic produce, dairy, and meat; bulk coffees, teas, spices; locally-made baked goods and products; and more!

Baking this season? Shop our bulk section and fill your cupboards.

www.cambridgefoodcoop.com

HUBBARD BLOCK ANTIQUES

18TH - 19TH CENTURY
COUNTRY FURNITURE & PRIMITIVES
DECORATIVE ACCESSORIES
ANTIQUA ESTATE JEWELRY
VINTAGE CHRISTMAS ROOM
QUALITY ANTIQUES

WED-SAT. 11:00-5:00 MOST SUN. 12:00-4:00
19 EAST MAIN STREET CAMBRIDGE, NY 12816
Owner: Jacqueline E. Whitman

518.677.8477 hubbardblockantiques.com
email: hubbardshop1@gmail.com

CAMBRIDGE VALLEY SENIOR CENTER

- New members Welcome
- Join us for a nutritious \$3.00 lunch because no one should eat alone!
- Visit our Memory Lane Thrift Shop.
- Join us for laughter and friendship.

5 Park Place, Cambridge, N.Y. 12816
518-677-8592
email: cambridgeseniorsite@gmail.com

112th district (parts of Saratoga, Schenectady and Fulton counties)
 Andrew McAdoo (D, WF) 23,697 (40.2%)
 * **Mary Beth Walsh (R, C)** **35,271 (59.8%)**

113th district (parts of Saratoga, Washington counties)
 David Catalfamo (R, C) 25,475 (47.1%)
 * **Carrie Woerner (D)** **28,618 (52.9%)**

OVERVIEW

Voters across the nation may have dashed Republican hopes for a “red wave” election, but the party showed unusual strength in New York this year, picking up several U.S. House seats in districts that became newly competitive under a court-ordered redistricting.

Locally, these included an open seat in the newly drawn 19th Congressional District, where Republican Marc Molinaro, the Dutchess County executive, narrowly defeated Josh Riley, a lawyer from the Southern Tier, in a race that attracted national attention and dollars. Riley carried Columbia, Ulster and Tomkins counties, but Molinaro prevailed in Broome County and seven other rural counties across the district.

In addition to Molinaro’s victory, GOP candidates managed to flip three other House seats in the New York City suburbs after a campaign that focused in large part on fears of rising crime. The results mean that in January, Republicans will control 11 of New York’s 26 U.S. House seats, up from 8 of 27 seats before the election. (The state lost one seat through reapportionment based on population shifts in the 2020 census.) The GOP share of the New York’s congressional delegation has gradually rebounded over the past decade after hitting a low of just three House seats after the 2008 election.

Republican candidate Lee Zeldin also gave his party its strongest showing in 20 years in a governor’s race. But incumbent Democrat Kathy Hochul still prevailed by nearly six percentage points, and Democratic incumbents won by more comfortable margins in every other statewide race.

In other area congressional races, incumbent Reps. Paul Tonko, D-Amsterdam, and Elise Stefanik, R-Schuylerville, both won re-election easily in districts that had been redrawn

to exclude their towns of residence.

In state legislative races, the election results did little to shift the statewide balance of power, despite a court-ordered redistricting that created a more competitive state Senate map. Although a handful of races still hadn’t been called by the end of November, Democrats appeared well positioned to retain two-thirds majorities in both the Senate and Assembly.

In the 63-seat Senate, where Republicans had targeted a dozen Democratic-held seats as potentially winnable, the party secured only 21 seats, the same number as before the election. Although three races hadn’t been called, Democrats led in all three, potentially giving their party control of 42 seats, the same as before.

Locally, Democratic Sen. Michelle Hinchey, D-Saugerties, defeated Sen. Sue Serino, R-Hyde Park, after the two incumbents were drawn into the new 41st district in the Hudson Valley.

To the north, Assemblyman Jake Ashby, R-Castleton, prevailed over Democrat Andrea Smyth, the director of a non-profit children’s services group, for an open seat in the new 43rd Senate District, which covers all of Rensselaer County, most of Washington County and the northwestern corner of Albany County.

And Republican Sens. James Tedisco and Dan Stec won re-election easily, despite new maps that made the 44th and 45th districts less strongly Republican than before.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Joe Benning (R) of Lyndon 118,724 (42.9%)
 Ian G. Diamondstone (GM) of Putney 8,159 (2.9%)
David Zuckerman (D) of Hinesburg **150,102 (54.2%)**

U.S. SENATOR

Mark Coester (i) of Westminster 1,273 (0.4%)
 Natasha Diamondstone-Kohout (GM) of Dummerston 1,574 (0.5%)
 Stephen Duke (i) of Calais 1,209 (0.4%)
 Dawn Marie Ellis (i) of Burlington 2,752 (1.0%)
 Ms. Cris Ericson (i) of Chester 1,105 (0.4%)
 Gerald Malloy (R) of Weathersfield 80,468 (28.1%)
 Kerry Patrick Raheb (i) of Bennington 1,532 (0.5%)
Peter Welch (D) of Norwich **196,575 (68.6%)**

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE

Becca Balint (D) of Brattleboro **176,494 (62.8%)**
 Matt Druzba (i) of Burlington 5,737 (2.0%)
 Liam Madden (R) of Rockingham 78,397 (27.9%)
 Adam Ortiz (i) of Rutland City 3,376 (1.2%)
 Ericka Redic (L) of Burlington 12,590 (4.5%)
 Luke Talbot (i) of Brighton 4,428 (1.6%)

STATE TREASURER

H. Brooke Paige (R) of Washington 95,440 (34.3%)
Mike Peciak (D) of Winoski **182,571 (65.7%)**

SECRETARY OF STATE

Sarah Copeland Hanzas (D) of Bradford ... **179,087 (65.2%)**
 H. Brook Paige (R) of Washington 95,666 (34.8%)

AUDITOR OF ACCOUNTS

* **Doug Hoffer (D) of Burlington** **178,714 (65.4%)**
 Richard “Rick” Morton (R) of Brattleboro ... 94,613 (34.6%)

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Charity R. Clark (D) of Williston **179,098 (65.2%)**
 Michael Tagliavia (R) of Corinth 95,661 (34.8%)

VERMONT

GOVERNOR

Peter Duval (i) of Underhill 4,723 (1.7%)
 Kevin Hoyt (i) of Bennington 6,022 (2.1%)
 Bernard Peters (i) of Irasburg 2,315 (0.8%)
 * **Phil Scott (R) of Berlin** **202,147 (71.3%)**
 Brenda Siegel (D, P) of Newfane 68,248 (24.1%)

The Battenkill Valley CAMBRIDGE, NY

Cambridge Central School Drama Club presents

Little Women

performances Friday-Sunday, Dec. 9-11 at Hubbard Hall • hubbardhall.org

GETTING TO CAMBRIDGE

- from Bennington: 30 minutes
- from Glens Falls: 1 hour
- from Great Barrington: 1 hour, 55 min
- from Hudson: 1 hour, 55 minutes
- From Manchester: 35 minutes
- from Pittsfield: 1 hr, 30 minutes
- from Saratoga Springs: 45 minutes
- from Williamstown: 45 minutes

See map on page 16

OVER THE MOON

STOCKING STUFFERS

**Jewelry, Key Chains, Incense
 Beads, Stickers, Cards & More!**
 11 East Main St. Cambridge, NY
 www.overthemoonbeads.com
 518.677.3005

Silvano's

Italian Restaurant
 68 West Main Street
 Cambridge NY 12816.
 518.677.7123
*Make your Christmas Eve & New Year's Eve
 Reservations in Advance*
Full Menu plus our Daily Specials
Take Out Available
 Tue.-Thur. 4-8 Fri. & Sat. 4-9 Sunday 2-8
 silvanosrestaurant.com

WOMEN'S & MENS CLOTHING AND ACCESSORIES | **HOME DECOR, SEASONAL GIFTS, ANTIQUES, VINTAGE, ACCENT FURNITURE PIECES**

Forget Me Not

CONSIGNMENTS

13 West Main St. Cambridge NY 12816
 Hours: Sat. 11-5 Sun. 11-4
 Call to consign 518-403-4972 • forgetmenotconsign@gmail.com
 Follow on instagram-forgetmenotconsignments

Battenkill Books
 Unique, Independent, and Locally-Owned
 We ship anywhere.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 12/1 Fiction Book Club with Brad Kessler
- 12/3 Little Women Christmas
- 12/6 Resilience Alchemy with Maude White
- 12/8 Poetry Night
- 1/5 Fiction Book Club
- 1/26 Poetry Night

15 East Main Street
 Cambridge NY 12816
 518-677-2515
 battenkillbooks.com

Enjoy Downtown Cambridge

Country Gals Café
 9 East Main Cambridge, NY
 (518) 428-2826
 Wed.-Sat. 5:30-1:15 Sun. 6 to 11:45

Beaujolais Nouveau will be available for Thanksgiving

BLACK DOG WINES & SPIRITS
 518-677-BARK
 blackdogwines.com

Mon-Sat 11am -7pm
 Sunday 12 - 4 pm
 98 W Main St
 Cambridge NY
 518-677-BARK www.blackdogwines.com

Black Widow Gallery
 15 W. Main St. Cambridge (Varak Park)
 Phone: 518-588-0556

Antique Vintage Unique | *Home Furnishings Showroom*

Email: Blackwidowgallery@outlook.com

Open: Thurs.-Fri. 10-2 Saturday 11-5 Sunday 11-4 Mon-Wed. by appointment

Follow us on Facebook & Instagram for weekly updates and events!

Election *continued from previous page*

STATEWIDE BALLOT QUESTIONS

Proposal 2 -- Slavery and indentured servitude

A Yes vote amends a portion of the state constitution that prohibits slavery, removing archaic clauses that allowed for exceptions to that prohibition. Although Vermont prohibited slavery from its founding in 1777, its constitution had provided exceptions for people under 21 and those "bound by the person's own consent ... or bound by law for the payment of debts, damages, fines, costs or the like."

Yes 238,466 (88.7%)
No 30,335 (11.3%)

Proposal 5 -- Reproductive rights

A Yes vote amends the state constitution to guarantee a right to personal reproductive autonomy. The amendment, known as Article 22, specifies that "an individual's right to personal reproductive autonomy .. shall not be denied or infringed unless justified by compelling state interest achieved by the least restrictive means."

Proponents said the amendment would protect abortion rights that are in jeopardy because of the recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling overturning the 50-year-old precedent of Roe vs. Wade.
Yes 212,323 (76.8%)
No 64,239 (23.2%)

STATE SENATE

Rutland District (three seats)

* Brian "BC" Collamore (R) of Rutland Town 13,878
Joshua Ferguson (D) of Fair Haven 9,359
Bridgette Remington (D) of Rutland Town 10,134
Anna Tadio (D) of Rutland City 10,453
David Weeks (R) of Proctor 10,703
Terry K. Williams (R) of Poultney 11,453

STATE HOUSE

Bennington District 1 (towns of Readsboro, Searsburg, Stamford, Woodford and part of Pownal)

* Nelson Brownell (D) of Pownal 974 (50.7%)
Brian Busa (R) of Readsboro 948 (49.3%)

Bennington District 3 (Shaftsbury, Glastenbury and part of Sunderland)

* David K. Durfee (D) of Shaftsbury 1,179 (61.7%)
Victor K. Harwood Jr. (R) of Shaftsbury 731 (38.3%)

Bennington District 4 (two seats; towns of Arlington, Manchester, Sandgate and part of Sunderland)

* Seth Bongartz (D) of Manchester 2,503
Joe Gervais (R) of Arlington 1,369
* Kathleen James (D) of Manchester 2,517

Bennington District 5 (two seats; parts of Bennington and Pownal)

Jim Carroll (D) of Bennington 1,427
* Mary A. Morrissey (R) of Bennington 1,869
* Michael Nigro (D) of Bennington 1,290

Rutland-Bennington District (Middletown Springs, Pawlet, Rupert, Tinmouth and part of Wells)

* Sally Achey (R) 1,019 (46.4%)
Robin Chesnut-Tangerman (D) 1,179 (53.6%)

Rutland District 2 (two seats; Clarendon, Wallingford, West Rutland and part of Rutland Town)

* Thomas "Tom" Burditt (R) of West Rutland 2,079
Ken Fredette (D) of Wallingford 1,687
* Arthur Peterson (R) of Clarendon 1,952
Dave Potter (D) of Clarendon 1,945

Rutland District 3 (town of Castleton)

Mary Droegge (D) of Castleton 793 (48.7%)
Jarrod E. Sammis (R) of Castleton 836 (51.3%)

Rutland District 6 (part of Rutland City)

* Mary E. Howard (D) 727 (60.0%)
Cynthia "Cindy" Laskevich (R) 484 (40.0%)

BENNINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF

Beau Alexander Sr. (i) of Shaftsbury 1,227 (8.0%)
James A. Gulley Jr. (D) of Bennington 8,478 (55.5%)
Joel R. Howard Jr. (R) of Pownal 5,576 (36.5%)

OVERVIEW

Vermont's voters gave Republican Gov. Phil Scott a resounding victory in his bid for a fourth term. But at the same time, they strengthened the hand of legislative Democrats, who in January will once again hold supermajorities capable of overriding the governor's veto.

In races for federal office, Democratic U.S. Rep. Peter Welch easily won the seat of retiring Sen. Patrick Leahy, while voters chose Becca Balint, the Democratic state Senate president, to succeed Welch as the state's lone U.S. House member.

A wave of retirements also created open-seat races for four of the five other statewide offices. Democratic candidates won all of those races easily, with former Lt. Gov. David Zuckerman reclaiming the job he had left in 2020 to pursue an unsuccessful bid for governor.

For secretary of state, state Rep. Sarah Copeland Hanzas of Bradford won the seat left open by Jim Condos, while Mike Pieciak, the state's former commissioner of financial regulation, will take over as state treasurer after the retirement of Beth Pearce. Charity Clark, who had served as chief of staff to former Attorney General TJ Donovan, won the seat left vacant by her former boss.

In state legislative races, Republicans picked up an open Senate seat in Rutland County, but Democratic gains elsewhere left the GOP with just seven of the 30 seats in the upper chamber, the same number as before the election and too few to sustain a governor's veto.

In the 150-seat state House, Democrats and their allies in the state's Progressive Party were on track to regain a veto-proof majority of at least 107 seats, up from 99 seats in the last legislative session.

A handful of races remained undecided in late November, including one in Bennington House District 1, where incumbent Rep. Nelson Brownell, D-Pownal, was leading narrowly but a recount was under way. Earlier, a recount upheld the seven-vote victory of Rep. Arthur Peterson, R-Clarendon, in Rutland District 2.

- Compiled by Fred Daley

Destination: BALLSTON SPA, NY

BALLSTON SPA ANTIQUE CENTER
217-221 Milton Avenue
Ballston Spa, New York 12020
(518) 885-6746 • OPEN DAILY 10-5

STONE SOUP ANTIQUES GALLERY

(518) 885-5232
email: ston_soup_antiques@verizon.net
www.ston_soup_antiques_gallery.com
Open Daily: 10am-5pm
2144 Doubleday Ave (Rt 50) Ballston Spa, NY

Front Street Home
★ FARM TABLES ★ LIGHTING
★ AREA RUGS ★ ANTIQUES
★ INDUSTRIAL ★ MID CENTURY
★ HOME DECOR ★ FABRICS
★ INTERIOR DESIGN SERVICES
Front Street Home is full of ideas and inspiration to help you create a special home.
6 Front Street
Ballston Spa, NY 12020
518.885.6555
Tuesday - Saturday 10-4, and by appointment
www.frontsthome.com
Facebook: Front Street Home Design Center

Holiday Artisans Market at Brookside Museum
Thursday-Sunday, Dec. 15-18
details at
brooksidemuseum.org

GETTING TO BALLSTON SPA
• from Bennington 1 hour, 10 minutes
• from Cambridge 55 minutes
• from Glens Falls 35 minutes
• from Great Barrington 1 hour, 30 minutes
• from Hudson 1 hour, 20 minutes
• from Manchester 1 hour, 20 minutes
• from Pittsfield 1 hour, 25 minutes
• from Saratoga Springs 15 minutes
• from Williamstown 1 hour, 15 minutes
See map on page 16

New Exhibit: Glass Factory Mountain
NATIONAL BOTTLE MUSEUM
76 Milton Ave, Ballston Spa, NY
Wed-Sat 10-4pm
For more info. call (518) 885-7589
nationalbottlemuseum.org

Tues-Wed 10-5:30pm
Thurs-Sat 12-8pm
Corina
CONTEMPORARY JEWELRY AND FINE CRAFTS
10 Washington St., Ballston Spa 518-885-0930
www.CorinaContemporaryJewelry.com
CorinaContemporaryJewelry Corinajewelry



Winter Sale Winter Sale Winter Sale
with **Bonny and Daphne** at Stone Soup Antiques in the "Red Carpet Room"
Original antique painted pieces, large corbels, Ironstone, Architectural; including windows, Pillars, decorative antique crusty iron, Beautiful antique Flat and Hollowware, antique African pieces, Asian pottery, Jade, & Artwork, unusual jewelry and artifacts from across the globe!
STONE SOUP ANTIQUES GALLERY Open Daily: 10am-5pm
2144 Doubleday Ave (Rt 50) Ballston Spa, NY *Plenty of parking and completely air conditioned*

A 19th century fall pastime: gathering chestnuts

The vision of chestnuts roasting on an open fire in December could be squelched if Jack Frost nipped at one's nose in September.

"We have good promise of a fine crop of chestnuts," the Fort Ann correspondent of *The Granville Sentinel* reported on Sept. 22, 1876. "Frost holding off is favorable for large nuts with rich meats."

A week later, the frost had held off, and optimism prevailed.

"Chestnut burrs are expected to burst with a broad grin within a fortnight," the *Sentinel* reported.

"The Christmas Song," the holiday tune about chestnuts roasting on an open fire, was written in 1945 and appeals to nostalgia. But the song doesn't capture the full 19th century experience in which many area residents ventured into the woods to gather chestnuts.

"Almost time to get up chestnutting parties," *The Commercial Advertiser* of Sandy Hill, now Hudson Falls, reported on Sept. 29, 1880. "Chestnuts are said to be plentiful this year, as well as butternuts and walnuts."

Charles Cool, who would become the first mayor of Glens Falls, and his wife joined about a half-dozen other prominent residents in the fall of 1886 on a chestnut-gathering social excursion to a forest in Queensbury, in the vicinity of what is now the Glens Falls watershed land.

"Leaving Glens Falls between nine and

ten o'clock, they were carried thither in West's cariole [small carriage], going by way of Gurney's Lane and returning by way of Miller's Hill, reaching home between five and six o'clock," *The Morning Star* reported on Oct. 9, 1886. "They made coffee and ate dinner in the woods, and, in addition to bringing back an abundance of nuts, report a most enjoyable trip."

Maury Thompson

Chestnut gathering was no respecter of age or income. Young and old, poor and rich alike were beckoned into the woods to reap the harvest that nature sowed.

"Chestnut gathers are numerous," the *Morning Star* reported on Oct. 15, 1888. "A party from the village visited West Mountain on Saturday and brought home a goodly supply of the brown-coated nuts."

Philanthropist Henry Crandall and his wife and local school superintendent Sherman Williams were among "a number of older ones" that chaperoned the fourth annual Glens Falls Union School children's chestnut gathering excursion to the woods above the Big Boom in Queensbury on Oct 20, 1888. The happy group traveled in a four-horse wagon.

"The party numbered thirty-three in all," the *Star* reported two days later. "They had a royal good time and brought back lots of chestnuts."

Crandall and Williams would later co-found Crandall Public Library, with Williams

providing the ideas and Crandall the finances.

"W.H. Hunt carried a four-horse load of young people to the reservoir Saturday for a chestnut hunt," the *Star* reported on Sept. 26, 1887.

Dry goods merchant B.B. Fowler and his wife were among "a jolly party" of Glens Falls adults that enjoyed a chestnut gathering excursion to the Marion House hotel at Lake George on Oct. 22, 1888, transported in a tally-ho wagon, the *Morning Star* reported.

"The young people of the Presbyterian Church enjoyed a chestnutting party in Ransom's Woods yesterday afternoon," the newspaper reported on Oct. 9, 1889.

There were some who felt it inappropriate to gather chestnuts on the Christian Sabbath.

"All day long yesterday the street cars were heavily laden with passengers going from this place to Glens Falls, and many of those who should have been in church were gathering chestnuts" the *Morning Star's* Sandy Hill correspondent wrote on Nov. 2, 1886.

Some people bought their chestnuts at local grocery markets.

On Oct. 23, 1884, the *Star* reported that chestnuts were selling in Glens Falls at a retail price of \$3 a bushel — the equivalent of \$91.23 in today's dollars.

Chestnut prices, then, as now, were based on supply and demand, with prices higher in years with frost damage or blight.

So on Oct. 11, 1887, in a year when the *Star* reported that "chestnuts are plenty in

continued on next page

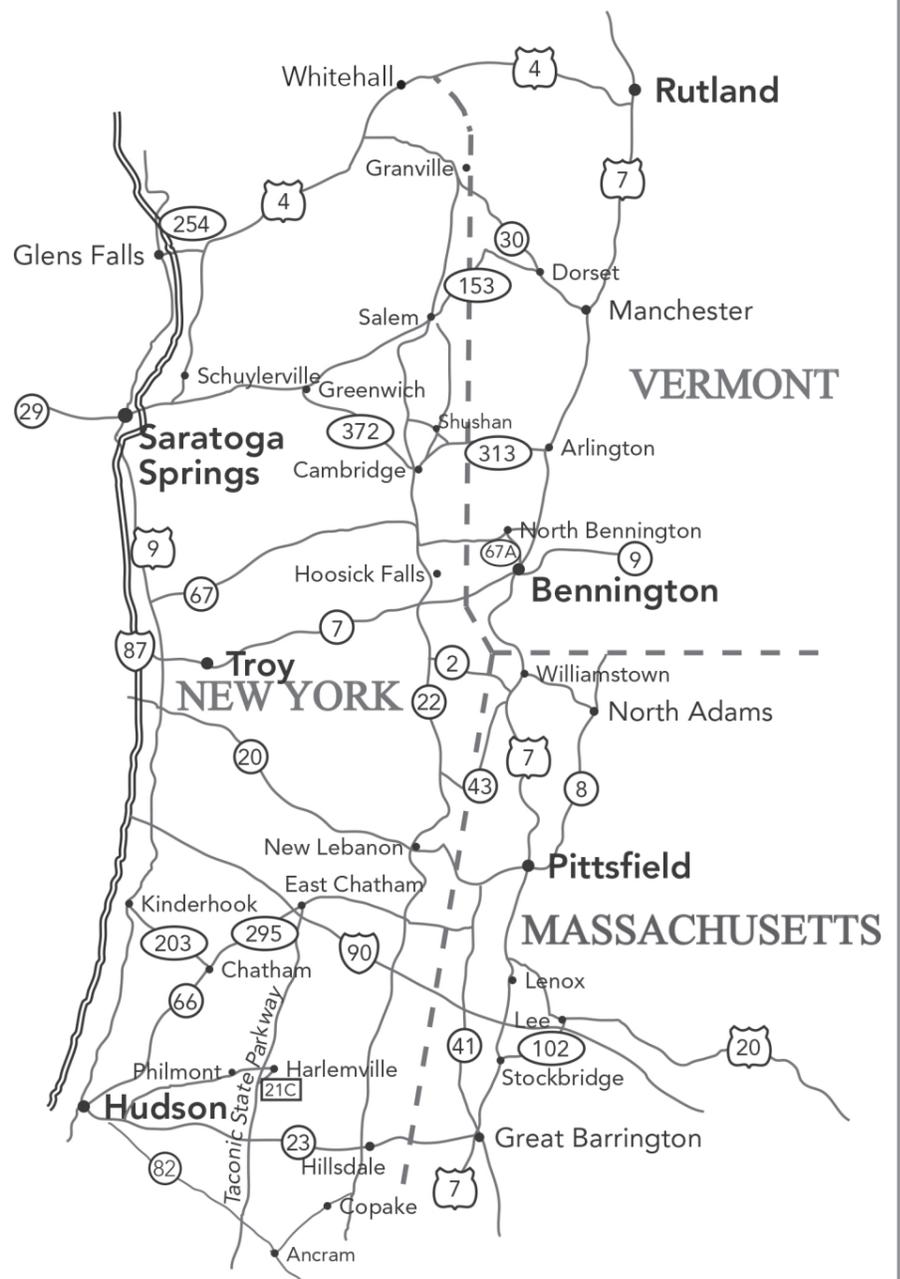
News that's slow-brewed for a high-speed age

We're told we live in an information age, yet the traditional gathering of news is in decline.

Conventional news organizations are scaling back their efforts to ferret out the facts, even as they spread each factoid ever more widely via 24-hour broadcasts and the Internet. Is this the best way to keep you informed?

At the *Hill Country Observer*, we still take time to connect the dots, to put the news and issues of our region into a broader perspective. We only publish once a month, but we shine a light on stories and trends that aren't getting much attention elsewhere.

Judging from our growing circulation, readers like the results. Tell us what you think.



Thompson *continued from page 15*

this vicinity,” the paper reported the average retail price was \$2 a bushel, the equivalent of \$62.74 today.

By the early 20th century, a fungal disease accidentally imported from Asia began to wipe out American chestnut trees from local forests. Mature chestnut trees, which by some estimates had at one time accounted for 25 percent of the trees in the Appalachian range, had all but vanished by the 1950s, though researchers are still attempting to develop disease-resistant varieties.

Today, chestnuts in the United States are primarily grown on large tree farms using Asian or European varieties that are resistant to the blight. China and Korea are the largest suppliers of chestnuts.

Still, the United States has major exports to Panama, South Africa, the Netherlands, Hong Kong and Canada, according to Selina Wamuci, an agricultural export service provider. Michigan is now the largest supplier of chestnuts of any state.

Maury Thompson was a reporter for The Post-Star of Glens Falls for 21 years before retiring in 2017. He now is a freelance writer focusing on the history of politics, labor and media in the region.



LIVE MUSIC

Blue Grass Music Jams hosted by Alan Epstein
First Thursdays October through March, 6:30 to 8:30 pm
Coming in 2023 - Free concerts on Thursdays
Colgate Resolutions - January 12
Fellow Pynins - February 16
Tim O'Shea - March 23
The Faux Paws - April 13.

FOLKLIFE GALLERY

"Always Pleasing & Cheerful"
Local paintings in the spirit of Grandma Moses
Clara Mae Towers Orto • Cate Mandigo • Will Moses • Sandie Keyser • Jacob Houston
July 15 to December 31, 2022
"Crochet Coral Reef" through December 31, 2022
"Shutter Squad Photography Show" Nov-March

30TH ANNIVERSARY FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL

Save the date: Tuesday, July 25, 2023
Music, Storytelling, Folk Arts Demonstrations,
Food Carts at Glens Falls City Park outside
Crandall Public Library. *Free All Day Event*

EVOLVING LIBRARY DISPLAYS

"Folk Arts All Around Us" and **"On View:
Selections from the Special Collections"**

Archives - Research Room open during Library hours
Website: www.crandalllibrary.org
Blog: www.folklifecenter.com
YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/thefolklife-centeratcrandallpubliclibrary/

TravelStorys.com

Free self-guided mobile audio tours
• Battenkill Inspired
• Lake George On the Water
• Champlain Canal Stories (coming in 2023)

THE FOLKLIFE CENTER AT CRANDALL PUBLIC LIBRARY 251 Glen Street, Glens Falls, NY 12801

All projects and programs made possible by the
New York State Council on the Arts
Celebrating 30 years in 2023
HERITAGE • COMMUNITY • CREATIVITY

Diner *continued from page 3*

longtime fans over the years.

Telling stories in depth

Randall and Crabtree founded The Story Project in 2017 after becoming acquainted over the course of a journalistic collaboration in London. While crafting magazine pieces on Brexit and the Tower of London, the two discovered they worked well together.

Randall was living in London at the time, but two years later, they teamed up to do a story on the Hoosick Falls water contamination crisis for *Wilson Quarterly*, a current events journal published by the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C.

Both had extensive backgrounds in journalism, Crabtree as a reporter and photographer for the *Bennington Banner* and *Rutland Herald* and a freelancer for *The New York Times*, and Randall as a reporter for Reuters and a writer for publications that have included the *Financial Times* and *The Wall Street Journal*.

Now, for The Story Project, they write books on commission for clients ranging from businesses to families seeking an artfully rendered legacy.

"On the one hand, our books tend to go more in-depth on a subject than newspaper journalism," explained Randall, who now lives in Vermont. "But we're also writing a tribute, so in that sense, it differs from journalism. There are other companies who do writing for clients, but we offer writing and design."

Crabtree added that one of the hallmarks of The Story Project is getting each book as tailor-made as possible to the client's specifications.

For "Sonny's Blue Benn," the client requested as many interviews with family members, staff and customers as possible. The result was 37 affectionate recollections of time spent at the Blue Benn.

"This client was really in love with the diner and saw it as a second home during the time they were in college," Crabtree said. "The client befriended the owners who, in turn, befriended them."

When the Blue Benn went up for sale in 2020, the client saw it as the perfect time to begin gathering information for a tribute to Sonny and Mary Lou.

Randall said the interview process was somewhat hampered by the arrival of Covid-19 and all of the restrictions that went with the pandemic. But they pressed on, in spite of masking, air purifiers, and supply chain shortages for the proper paper required for the design.

"It took about a year and a half, but we got it done," she said.

Living the diner life

Their story of the Monroes' version of the diner opens on Christmas Eve 1973, just after Sonny made the leap of faith to go from Blue Benn employee to owner. He had signed a lease on a whim when the previous owner suddenly bailed out.

A self-trained cook who'd been at the stove since childhood, Sonny had long harbored the dream of having his own restaurant and welcomed the challenge. Mary Lou recalled being "scared to death" at the time, though she also felt there was something inherently right about her husband's decision.

The interviews throughout the book bear witness to the seamlessness of Sonny and Mary Lou's teamwork: his passion for feeding others was supported and elevated by her reputation for a no-nonsense but fair managerial style.

Crabtree said the book's style is modeled af-

ter Studs Terkel's "Working," in that the diner's story is told in a series of direct accounts from those who were a part of it.

Randall describes the tribute as a feel-good story with briny doses of realism, such as the frank recollections of the Monroes' only child, Lisa LaFlamme, about her love-hate relationship with the Blue Benn.

"It was almost like competing with a favorite sibling," Randall said.

Lisa's day began at 4 a.m. when Mary Lou roused her daughter for the morning commute to the diner. While her parents prepped for the day's onslaught, Lisa slept on a cot in the cellar until the 7:30 wake-up call followed by breakfast upstairs.

"Lisa was very open about how she hated getting on the school bus smelling like cigarettes and bacon grease" in the days when smoking at restaurants was the norm, Randall said. "But the anecdote also speaks to the tremendous work ethic of her parents."

That work ethic was hardly the couple's only virtue, as Crabtree and Randall tell it. They were just as adamant about keeping menu prices fair and affordable for their customers – and about paying cooks and waitresses a decent wage.

LaFlamme recounted in the book's introduction how her mother resisted raising prices for more than a decade, even though food costs had risen considerably.

"Lisa also talked about how Sonny and Mary Lou fought for good wages for their workers," Randall said. "And in turn, there was fierce loyalty from the staff. Some of them worked there 25 or 30 years."

And while Mary Lou managed the day-to-day operations, Sonny was constantly evolving the menu beyond the staples of hash and eggs and burgers.

"Sonny was an innovative chef who broke new ground by introducing a vegetarian section on menu," Crabtree said. "He understood his clients and figured out early on he had a captive audience in Bennington College, and they came in swarms for the 'hippie food.'"

The book has a few extras including a chapter devoted to the phenomenon of the American diner, and a brief chapter at the end recounting celebrity sightings at the Blue Benn over the decades. Customers and wait staff alike recall being elbow-to-elbow with the likes of Marisa Tomei, Ben Affleck, James Gandolfini and Gwyneth Paltrow, who was famously scolded by one of the waitresses when she attempted to cut in front of a crowd with the classic "Don't you know who I am?" line. As the story goes, the waitress told the actress she indeed knew who she was – and then remanded Paltrow to the vestibule to stand with the other customers awaiting tables.

End of an era

With Sonny's passing in 2019, Mary Lou decided to sell the diner the following year. Crabtree said there were a few anxious months after it went on the market.

"A lot of people were worried that it would close entirely or be changed into something they didn't know anymore," he said.

But fans of the Blue Benn breathed a sigh of relief when Mary Lou sold it to longtime customer John Getchell, who discovered the diner in 1981 while traveling the country via Greyhound Bus to scope out prospective colleges, including the University of Miami and Colorado College.

A breakfast at the Blue Benn proved to be a game-changer. Getchell recounts in the book how Sonny's Sir Benn omelet, stuffed with chicken, broccoli, mushrooms and cheddar cheese and drenched in hollandaise sauce, be-

continued on page 23

ARTS & CULTURE

A roller coaster at its heart

New MoCA show draws on the thrills, bright lights of amusement parks

By KATE ABBOTT
Contributing writer

NORTH ADAMS, Mass.

The solo rider in the single cart drops a full story in a rush, lifting both arms overhead and shouting, and the cart slues into a wide arc.

Internationally acclaimed Los Angeles artist EJ Hill has created an installation out of experience on an edge of terror and delight. His “Brake Run Helix,” which opened in late October as the newest exhibit at Mass MoCA’s Building 5 gallery, has at its center a real, rideable roller coaster inside a vast room at the old mill building.

“Extremes of physical sensation move you to feel something in your gut,” curator Alexandra Foradas explained, watching the rider skim backward around the loop overhead.

To work in this space, the coaster runs entirely on gravity. The attendant waiting to winch the car back up to the top says that when he sees the roller coaster on a clear day, sunlight will cross the sculpture in bright bars, breaking through it. Then he saw it on a cloudy afternoon, with the lights on within the wooden frame, and the whole structure glowed — “it just exploded,” he said.

At night, as the light dims, it all feels like a single piece, Foradas said, and when you’re riding, you can look through the long windows and see the mountains outside touched with sunset light. She finds it magical.

Foradas said she first encountered Hill and his work when he exhibited at the Venice Biennale in 2015, and she reached out to him in 2018 after seeing his installation at the Hammer Museum in Los Angeles. His work there looked beautiful and intensely demanding, both emotionally and physically.

He created a winner’s podium at the Hammer, she said, and he stood on it every hour the museum was open. For weeks, he made himself part of the work, so that everyone who walked into the room would see him.

“It was very draining,” she said.

Hill embodied and faced “ever-present threats of exhaustion and debilitation,” says Makayla Bailey, the exhibition’s co-editor and interpretation consultant. As a writer and curator in New York, she has served as a joint curatorial fellow at the Museum of Modern Art and the Studio Museum in Harlem, and she is now co-director of the Rhizome digital project with the New Museum.

“This installation was a ritual reclamation,” Bailey wrote, considering Hill’s Hammer exhibit. “Hill ran victory laps around his former schools, collapsing into stillness in the



Courtesy Mass MoCA

Viewers can sign up to ride the single-cart roller coaster at the center of “Brake Run Helix,” the new installation by Los Angeles artist EJ Hill at the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art.

form of daily, enduring presence on a podium (christened Altar) in the gallery.”

Here, as in an installation at the Studio Museum in Harlem, “his unceasing, perpetual presence during museum hours traced a grueling endurance from one day to the next.”

After these shows, and the pandemic, Hill was looking for spaces in his practice for care and respite, Foradas said. She said she sees an impulse toward withdrawal in some of his most recent work, including the Whitney biennial, where he contributed a single blank page of pink paper.

Creating a spectacle

Here, he turns to a practice that places fewer demands on his own body. In place of enforced stillness and strain, Hill has created an act of spectacle and excitement in a performance space that has already come alive with people and music. “Brake Run Helix” opened with dance party.

And he is turning the lens around, Foradas says, inviting speculation about who is watching whom. This roller coaster shifts perspective. Instead of full train cars in an oblivious crowd, one person can climb into this cart at a time, riding alone with a crowd watching.

“To turn a roller coaster into a

performance encourages you to question the degree to which all public acts are a performance,” she said, “and especially for EJ Hill as a queer Black man — in North Adams and Berkshire County especially.”

In the time he has spent on site here, helping to get the show ready to open, Foradas said Hill has been aware of the way people look at him. Just walking up Main Street or into a coffee shop can become performances, whether he wants them to or not, when all he wants is a hot cup of coffee and a few minutes of quiet, she explained.

“He is looking for a more capacious exploration of the embodied experience of art,” Foradas said. “For him, roller coasters are already art. ... Roller coasters are an experience of terror you opt into, with your consent. His work is a reclaiming of experience” of adrenaline and danger.

She said Hill has turned to rides and amusement parks out of a lifelong fascination. He loved riding roller coasters since he was a boy, and he has an equal fascination with their history. The exhibit pays homage in photographs he has taken over the years of classic rides at historic parks. One of his earlier installations, “Prospect 5,” centers on a Ferris wheel from a New Orleans park that closed after Hurricane Katrina.

But roller coasters have a more complex

WHITMAN'S WIRING SERVICE & LAMP REPAIR
No Job Too Small!
 New Electric Service, Generators, Etc.
 21 East Main Street
 Cambridge NY 12816
 518 409 2245
 DeanWhitman39@gmail.com

Hoosick Tire & Services
 THE AREA'S #1 DISCOUNT TIRE DEALER
 New and Used Snow Tires Available
 4-WHEEL ALIGNMENT STARTING AT \$99.99
 A SHORT DRIVE FROM VERMONT
 968 ROUTE 22 • CAMBRIDGE, NY
 518-677-3636 • WWW.HOOSICKTIRE.COM
 M-F 9-5 • SAT 9-12 • CLOSED SUNDAYS

and challenging history than speed and thrills and the limits of physics, one of “roller coasters as sites of access — and prohibited access — to places of leisure and joy,” Foradas said.

Unlike the kinds of fair and carnival rides sometimes owned by traveling families for generations, roller coasters began as an amusement for nobility. Hill traces them back to ice slides in Russia in the 19th century.

In America until the 1960s, Foradas said, amusement parks operated on a Coney Island kind of model. They went up near cities, easy to get to and priced inexpensively by the ride, so everyone could go.

When federal laws mandated desegregation, however, privately owned amusement parks began to move away from urban centers and public transportation — to places reachable only by car. And they shifted from a system of small fees for each ride toward a flat fee at the gate, a structure that made the parks more expensive overall — and more likely to be cost-prohibitive to families on slimmer budgets.

The result, Foradas said, was that Black families often were denied access to places of leisure, just as they had often been barred from public parks and pools. So she sees “Brake Run Helix” as acknowledging a history of exclusion — and envisioning a future of strength and confidence and pleasure.

Hill calls some of his paintings here joy studies.

“Joy isn’t something with an end,” she said. “It’s something you continue to learn.”

In his photographs and his repeated images of clouds, she sees a motion upward, ascent into a better place — visions of Black futurisms, moving toward a spaceship or toward the heavens. As he wrote in neon in the Hammer show: “We deserve to see ourselves elevated.”

Swirls of color

Hill’s work touches on themes deep and close to him, Foradas said. He has talked with her about his work as a very vulnerable process. Even though he does not appear in this work, it is a kind of exposure to reveal work he has been growing and evolving,

sometimes for years, to people who haven’t taken the time to get to know him.

He also celebrates what he loves, even in the face of ridicule. He has chosen pink as a thematic color, she said, because he has always loved it, and as a child he was made fun of for loving it. He has swept color through the room here in grand style. The roller coaster runs on pink tracks.

In the center room, he shows paintings of roses in bloom, along with neon clouds and the wooden scaffolding of rides against the sky. These images stem from an interest in nurturing and growth, Foradas says, and a deliberate respect for softness and femininity.

He has named the roller coaster “Brava!” — the word people call out in excitement at high points in a performance when they are riding excitement, or when they throw flowers. In Italian, “brava” means brave, showing courage and endurance. And it means that for a woman.

“Brava is what we shout to a female or femme-identifying performer,” Foradas said. The word exists to celebrate a woman, and she is often the star.

In the pandemic, Hill has been painting and drawing flowers, and Foradas said he told her that in these works his grandmother finally saw what he was doing as art. And she is someone who has always gardened, has always had her hands in the dirt.

Along with the pink swirls of paint and loops of track, Hill brings in deep, dark green velvet, as an echo of plants, Foradas says, and also as a note of performance that sounds throughout the installation. Although the rides themselves are a show, the wooden platform for the coaster can also become a stage for pop music and theater.

Feats of engineering, lighting

At its center, “Brake Run Helix” is a work of engineering as well, trading elements of supersleek monoliths and backyard bike jumps.

To design and build a roller coaster inside a museum, Hill and Mass MoCA’s fabrication crew worked with Skyline Attractions to create a brand new design, Foradas said.

Hill wanted to fit his coaster into the existing architecture, she said. The loops form a figure eight as high as the mezzanine, and physics dictate the run from there. Because it’s gravity-powered, the coaster has physical limits on its height and drop and a finite length of

track.

Skyline made the track and the cart and the struts from bent and riveted steel, she said, and the underlying structure is made of raw wood. Hill wanted the DIY feel of something you can make in your backyard. He has reused almost all of the materials from past exhibits, planed down and reshaped.

The gray boards come from Glenn Kaino’s boardwalk in the show that had run in this space through September, with its shadow play of protests around the world and Deon Jones singing his unflinching R&B cover of U2’s “Sunday Bloody Sunday.”

Around the vast coil of “Brava,” Hill has envisioned three more trains on coaster tracks, tapping into the history of roller coaster design. They are all speculative carts, Foradas said, and they all work. Hill calls them collectively “metaphysics for a pink sonata,” and the cart in front can move through the space, becoming a kind of dance notation and allowing him freedom to adapt.

On the weathered boards and in the galleries, sculpture and paintings glint with neon, all of it from Lite Brite, a custom lighting shop in Kingston, N.Y. The shop created the neon script that reads “Promise Me Peril” and loaned neon lighting from other projects — on the freestanding carts, the heart on “Heartline,” and the bar on “Stratus.”

Foradas imagines the shine in the gallery at night, or on a winter afternoon when it’s dark by 4:30 and the pink lights on the roller coaster light the room. The lighting holds its own drama then, a momentum like the name of the show.

A helix is the moment in the ride where the G forces are strongest, she said, as they can be in a corkscrew. And a brake run is a space at the end, to let the cart slow down.

“Both are forces on your body,” she said, “physical demands on you that social structures are placing. They’re only metaphors here — we don’t have either of these structures. He has titled the work for something not present. It has poetry to it too — full stop, full speed, spinning.”

EJ Hill’s “Brake Run Helix” continues through January 2024 at the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art. Reservations to ride “Brava!” will be available on a rolling basis throughout the exhibit. Visitors can see the roller coaster activated by riders throughout the day without reservations.



Lewis Waite
FARMER NETWORK

FARM FOOD HUB OFFERING NATURAL AND ORGANIC FOOD FROM 50+ FARMS

- Grass Fed Meats
- Organic Dairy and Grains
- Eggs and Cheese
- Hearth Baked Bread
- Artisan Pantry Staples
- Regional Seafood
- Prepared Foods

1000's of products
now available for
Home Delivery!

www.csalewiswaitefarm.com
518-692-3120

PRODUCE, MILK,
MEAT, AND
MORE...

**MONTHLY COFFEE
SUBSCRIPTION SPECIAL!**

online:

www.lucyjoscffee.com

LUCY JO'S certified Organic
COFFEE fresh roasted coffee
ROASTERY delivered to your door!

**Fresh Raw A2A2 Jersey Milk
A2A2 Yogurt**

- 100% Grass-fed
- A2A2 tested
- Certified Organic
- State Licensed



Farm Store
open all
daylight
hours

Larson Farm

69 South Street, Wells, VT
larsonfarmvt.com (802) 645-1957

on a limb
catering & baking



specializing in locally sourced,
small batch, big heart cooking

Salem, NY 12865 • (518) 223-3399 • onalimbfood.com

Arts & Culture

AREA EXHIBITIONS

SOME VENUES HAVE VACCINE OR MASK RULES. CHECK ONLINE BEFORE YOU GO.

ArtOmi.org • 518-392-4747 • Sculpture & Architecture Park
 • outdoor, self-guided tour: Alexandre Arrechea: Orange Functional • Iván Navarro: This Land Is Your Land • Wendy Evans Joseph: Sensory Journey • Alicja Kwade: TunnelTeller • Jean Shin: Allée Gathering • Anna Sew Hoy: Set Notions • Olaf Bruening: Clouds • Hana Kassem & Spencer Topel: Ensemble
 • through Jan. 8: Allana Clarke: A Particular Fantasy

BenningtonMuseum.org • 75 Main St., Bennington, VT • 802-447-1571
 • Current and On-going Exhibitions, plus:
 • through Dec. 31: "In the Shadow of the Hills" Annual Winter Exhibition & Closed Bid-Auction
 • The Walloomsac Inn • Contemporary Story of Parks and Recreation • David Gil Turns 100 • Perspectives: Story of Bennington Through Maps

BerkshireMuseum.org • 39 South St., Pittsfield, MA • 413-443-7171
 On-going: Berkshire Backyard • Objects & Their Stories • Rocks & Minerals Gallery • Animals of the World in Miniature • Aquarium & Reptile Room • Feigenbaum Hall of Innovation
 • Hoot's Holiday: A Solstice Tale
 • Ed Wheeler's Santa Classics

BrooksideMuseum.org • 6 Charlton St., Ballston Spa, NY • Thu.-Sun., 10 am - 4 pm
 • through Dec. 23: "A Century of Ice Cream" (centennial of the Dake family & Stewart's Shops) AND "In the Saratoga Style: Potato Chips & their Regional Folklore"

MarthaCanfieldLibrary.org • 528 E. Arlington Rd., Arlington, VT • 802-375-6153
 • through Dec. 31: Holiday Craft Show

CarrieHaddadGallery.com • 622 Warren St., Hudson, NY • 518-828-1915
 • through Jan. 22: Light of Day, feat. works of 7 artists

ChapmanMuseum.org • 348 Glens St., Glens Falls, NY • 518-793-2826
 • Ongoing: "Introductory Exhibit" • "Hands-On History: Experiences of Hometown Life"
 • through Dec. 31: Seneca Ray Stoddard's Home and Holidays
 • through Jan. 15: Groundwork: Labor in a Burgeoning Community
 • through Feb. 5: Snapshot in Time: 1922
 • Jan. 28-Apr. 23: Maps, Charts, and Cartographic Tools

ClarkArt.edu • 225 South St., Williamstown, MA • 413-458-2303
 • through Feb. 12, 2023: On the Horizon: Art & Atmosphere in the 19th Century
 • through Jan. 8, 2023: Tomm El-Saieh: Imaginary City
 • Dec. 17-Mar. 12: Promenades on Paper: Eighteenth-Century French Drawings from the Bibliotheque Nationale de France

Courthouse Gallery • 1 Amherst St., Lake George, NY • 518-668-2616 • www.lakegeorgearts.org • Masks REQ'D
 • through Dec. 17: Jeremy Dennis' Wanderings

from Shinnecock
 • Jan. 25-Feb. 25: ORT Project: Oona Nelson & Anna Noelle Rockwell

Folklife Gallery at Crandall Library • 251 Glen St., Glens Falls, NY • www.CrandallLibrary.org • www.FolklifeCenter.com
 • Folk Arts All Around Us & On View: Selections from the Special Collections
 • through Dec. 31: Always Pleasing & Cheerful (local paintings in spirit of Grandma Moses) AND Crochet Coral Reef
 • through Mar. 31: Shutter Squad Photography Show

EPOCH Artisans Gallery • 4826 Main St., Manchester Ctr., VT • 802-768-9711 • EPOCHVermont.com

HartCluett.org • 57 2nd St., Troy, NY • 518-272-7232
 • through Dec. 18: Cultivating Community: Agriculture in Rensselaer County

HudsonHall.org • 327 Warren Street, Hudson, NY • 518-822-1438
 • Dec. 3-23: Community Canvas: A Winter Walk Youth Exhibition

HydeCollection.org • 518-792-1761
 • through Dec. 31: Wall Power! Spectacular Quilts from the American Folk Art Museum AND Works of Jan Connors
 • through Dec. 31: Artists of the Mohawk-Hudson Region
 • Jan. 28-Apr. 23: The Harmon and Harriet Kelley Collection of African American Art

Image Photos Gallery • 413-298-5500
 • photography of Clemens Kalischer

JacobsPillow.org • Digital Festival Streams on watch.jacobspillow.org
 • through Dec. 18: Dorrance Dance encore performance from Festival 2021
 • Dec. 5-Jan. 15: Swing Out
 • Jan. 9-Feb. 19: Limón Dance Company

LABspace • 2642 NY Rte. 23, Hillsdale, NY • julielabspace@gmail.com
 • Dec. 17-Feb. 19: HOLIDAY

TheLafferGallery.com • 96 Broad St., Schuylerville, NY • 518-695-3181
 • Dec. 3-Jan. 8: 11th Annual Juried Group Show "Upstate Artists"

MASSMoCA.org • 1040 MASS MoCA Way, North Adams, MA • 413-662-2111
 • through May 31: Yto Barrada: Ways to Baffle the Wind
 • Dec. 17: Jason Moran: Black Stars: Writing in the Dark

NationalBottleMuseum.org • 76 Milton Ave., Ballston Spa, NY • 518-885-7589
 • Permanent exhibit: Glass Factory Mountain: Making Bottles Making History (history of Mt. Pleasant community north of Greenfield, NY, from 1844 to 1865)

Norman Rockwell Museum • 9 Glendale Rd, Stockbridge, MA • nrm.org • 413-298-4100
 • Four virtual exhibitions available 24/7 online
 • through Jan. 7: Norman Rockwell Drawings, 1914-1976
 • through Mar. 12: Eloise and More: The Life & Art of Hilary Knight
 • Norman Rockwell's Spirit of the Holidays

NorthCountryArts.org
 --The Shirt Factory • Suite 120, 71 Lawrence St., Glens Falls, NY
 • through Jan. 7: Celebration
 --2nd Floor Gallery at City Hall • 42 Ridge St., Glens Falls, NY • 518-222-1471
 • through Dec. 2: GFSD Art Teachers
 • Dec. 5-Jan. 7: Rodney Allen Bentley

PamelaSalisburyGallery.com • 362 ½ Warren St., Hudson, NY
 • Dec. 3-Jan. 8: "ALL small"
 • through Jan. 8: "Photography and Sculpture" AND Robert Palumbo and Tamiko Kawata: "Disquiet"
 • through Apr. 3: Jon Isherwood "Still in Bloom"

PoultneyMuseum.org • 168 York St., Poultney, VT • 802-884-8269
 • Ongoing: Welsh-American Genealogical Society rotating exhibits

Saratoga-Arts.org • 320 Broadway, Saratoga Springs, NY • 518-584-4132
 • through Jan. 7: Annual Members' Show
 • Jan. 14-Feb. 4: High School All Stars 2023: ek • phra • sis - language & art

SeptemberGallery.com • Knitting Mill, 4 Hudson St., 3d Flr, Kinderhook, NY
 • through Dec. 18: "Conflict Assembly"

SohnFineArt.com • 69 Church St., Lenox, MA • 413-551-7353
 • through Feb. 6: Rachael Talibart: "Oceans & Odysseys"

Southern Vermont Arts Center • 930 SVAC Dr., Manchester • 802-362-1405 • www.svac.org
 • through Feb. 5: Fall/Winter 2022 Member Exhibition
 • Dec. 3-Feb. 25: Gail Winbury's "The Girl Who Drew Memories"

SpaFineArt.org
 • through Dec. 24: 10th Annual Small Works Show

SpencertownAcademy.org • 790 NYS Rte. 203, Spencertown, NY
 • through Dec. 18: Crafts: Art by Any Other Name

StoneValleyArts.org • 145 E. Main St., Poultney, VT
 • through Dec. 4: SVA Member Exhibition

SusanEleyFineArt.com • 433 Warren St., Hudson, NY • 917-952-7641
 • through Dec. 21: Downtown Debut, feat. James Isherwood, Lisa Pressman
 • through Dec. 31: Sarah Lutz and Rachelle

continued on page 20

Arts & Culture

THE CALENDAR DECEMBER 2022

Sun Mon Tues Wed Thurs

Exhibitions *continued from page 19*

Krieger: Shoots and Stars

Tang.skidmore.edu • 518-580-8080

- through Jun. 19, 2023: Parallax: Framing the Cosmos
- Dec. 10-Mar. 12: Elevator Music 45: Neil Leonard – Sonance for the Precession

tANJAgRUNERT.com Salon • 21 Prospect Ave., Hudson, NY

- through Dec. 18: O.K., Now What? • Significant Otherness • The Cipher

ThompsonGirouxGallery.com • 57 Main St., Chatham, NY

- through Dec. 17: Part of the Story (small works by over 40 artists)

Valley Artisans Market • 25 E. Main St., Cambridge, NY • 518-677-2765

- through Dec. 24: 2022 Annual Members Holiday Show

WorldChildrensMuseum.org • 89 Warren St., Glens Falls, NY

- Online: "International Youth Art Collection - Inspiring the Appreciation of Diversity"

4

 **ArgyleBrewing.com** • Sunday Brunch w/Bob • Music, 1-3 pm

CaffeLena.org • Bright Series: Slocan Ramblers • 7-9 pm

 See Theater Listings

• **Fort Salem.com**

ClarkArt.edu • WTFestival.org presents Ed Napier's "Music Lessons" • 2 pm • Res. REC'D.

 **ImagesCinema.org** --"Elf" • 11 am --"Mariupolis 2" • 1 pm --"Triangle of Sadness" •

4:30 & 7:30 pm

StoneValleyArts.org • "Miracle on 34th Street" (1947) • 3 pm • \$5 suggested • 145 E. Main St., Poultney, VT

 **NRM.org** • Rockwell's Life & Art • See Dec. 3 • 11 & 2 pm

CaffeLena.org • Playwright's Jam • 2 pm • Free

misc.

Great Barrington • See Dec. 3 • 10 am-3 pm

BerkshireBotanical.org • See Dec. 3 *continued on page 21*

11

 **ArgyleBrewing.com** • See Dec. 4

ClarkArt.edu • Williams College Chamber Music Gala • 1 pm • Free

DowntownPittsfield.org • Doo Wop Project Holiday Show • 2 pm • \$59 • Colonial Theatre

SPAC.org • Danú: "An Emerald Isle Christmas" • 4 pm

UniversalPreservation-Hall.org • Charles Weidman's Christmas Oratorio • 4 & 7 pm

CaffeLena.org • Planet Light: A Heard Holiday Concert • 7-9 pm

FriendsOfChamberMusic.org • Live at Massry Ctr. for Arts • 7 pm • \$35 • 1002 Madison Ave., Albany, NY

 See Theater Listings • **Hubbard Hall**

 **ImagesCinema.org** • See Dec. 10

 **SaratogaJewishCulturalFestival.org** • "The City Without Jews" virt. disc. • 7 pm • Reg. at sjca.sjcf@gmail.com REQ'D. for Zoom

misc.

LARAC.org • Winter Arts Festival • 10 am-5 pm • Queensbury Hotel

HancockShakerVillage.org • See Dec. 1

5

 **CaffeLena.org** • Open Mic Night • 7-10 pm

 **ImagesCinema.org** --"Triangles of Sadness" • 4:30 pm --"Funny Pages" • 7:30 pm

misc.

ComfortFoodCommunity.org • Give Comfort! • Accepting NEW winter accessories, all sizes, 'til Jan. 30 • Donate at Greenwich Free Library, 148 Main St., Greenwich, NY

12

 **CaffeLena.org** • See Dec. 5

 **ImagesCinema.org** • See Dec. 10; and "Murina" • 7:30 pm

Dec. 8 cont'd.

Behind the Scenes at 60 Minutes" • 6:45 pm • Reg. req'd. for Zoom

misc.

HancockShakerVillage.org • See Dec. 1

6

 **ImagesCinema.org** --"Triangles of Sadness" • 4:30 pm --Music in Movies: "Roomful of Teeth," "Carter Burwell" & "Catherine Called Birdy" • 7:30 pm

 **ClarkArt.edu** • Jeremy Melius's "Ruskin Unpossessed" • 5:30 pm • Free

CaffeLena.org • Storytelling Open Mic, feat. Jackson Gillman • 7 pm

FriendsOfChamberMusic.org • Perf. in Context Disc. on Zoom • 7 pm • Free, reg. REQ'D.

13

 **CaffeLena.org** • Chuck Lamb Trio feat. Adam Hutcheson • 7 pm

SPAC.org • Canadian Brass Holiday Concert • 7 pm

 **ImagesCinema.org** • See Dec. 10

misc.

SAM24.synthasite.com • Soc. of Am. Magicians • 7 pm • 226 Old Loudon Rd., Latham, NY

7

 **ParkTheaterGF.com** • The Ballroom Thieves feat. Griffin William Sherry • 8 pm

 **ImagesCinema.org** • "Triangles of Sadness" • 4:30 & 7:30 pm

 **CaffeLena.org** --Librarian-Led Poetry Discussion • 5:30-6:30 pm • Free --Poetry Open Mic feat. Philip Memmber • 7-9 pm

14

 **ArgyleBrewing.com** • Kuf Knotz & Christine Elise • 7 pm • \$10 • Cambridge, NY

 **ImagesCinema.org** • See Dec. 10

 **MobyDick.org** • Christmas Journey: Yuletide Readings w/Kevin O'Hara • 5:30-6:30 pm • \$10-\$15 • 780 Holmes Rd., Pittsfield, MA

misc.

YouthSquared • Peanut Butter Pop-Up & Other Staples (Jelly, Tuna, Mayo; White Rice, Beans, Mac & Cheese) • 3-6 pm • Drop off: 112 Spring St., Saratoga Springs parking lot (benefits Oakwood Commt. Ctr., Troy, NY)

THEATER LISTINGS

Fort Salem.com • 11 East Broadway, Salem, NY • 518-854-9200 "There's (Still) No Business Like Snow Business" • Dec. 2-4 • Fri. & Sat., 7:30 pm; Sun., 2 pm

HubbardHall.org • Main St., Cambridge, NY • 518-677-2595 CCS Drama Club presents "Little Women," plus "The Big Picture" and "In the Jar" by Mark Harvey Levine • Dec. 9-11 • Fri & Sat., 7 pm; Sat. & Sun., 2 pm

1

 **ArgyleBrewing.com** • 1st Thu. w/ Dan Costello • 6 pm

CrandallLibrary.org • Blue Grass Music Jam • 6:30 pm

CaffeLena.org • Lucas Garrett Album Release • 7 pm

 **ImagesCinema.org** --The Banshees of Inisherin (closing) 2:30; 5; 7:30 pm --Bodies Bodies Bodies • 10 pm

continued on page 21

8

 **ArgyleBrewing.com** • 2d Thu. w/ Eric Kuffs • 6 pm

CaffeLena.org • Lost Radio Rounders Holiday Sampler • 7 pm

 **Williams.edu** • Pachedu (F) ALL Ensembles • 7 pm • \$3 • '62 Center Main Stage

 **ImagesCinema.org** --See Dec. 7 (closing) --"We're All Going to the World's Fair" • 10:30 pm

 **JewishBerkshires.org** • Ira Rosen ("Ticking Clock: *continued below 12/12*

15

 **DeweyHall.org** • Square Dance w/Moonshine Holler & SargentSedoo • doors 6:30 pm; lesson 7 pm; band 7:30 pm

CaffeLena.org • Sons of Serendip Holiday Concert • 7-9 pm • \$55

ParkTheaterGF.com • 3d Thu. Jazz w/Matt Niedbalski Trio feat. The GNP Trio • \$10 • Doors, 7 pm

 **ImagesCinema.org** • See Dec. 10 (closing)

ClarkArt.edu • Film & Drawing Series: Early Animation • 7 pm

 **NRM.org** • Drawing Life w/ Noa Denmon • Adv. purch. req'd.

misc.

HancockShakerVillage.org • See Dec. 1

Arts & Culture

THE CALENDAR DECEMBER 2022

Fri

Sat

2

ArgyleBrewing.com • 1st Fri. w/Moon • 5:30 pm

HubbardHall.org • Cóg • 7:30 pm

See Theater Listings • **Fort Salem.com**

ImagesCinema.org --"Triangle of Sadness" (closes Dec. 8) • 4:30 & 7:30 pm --"Piggy" • 10:30 pm

ParkTheaterGF.com • Dinner & A Movie: "It's a Wonderful Life" • \$60 • Doors, 5 pm; 3-course dinner, 5:30; Movie 6:30 pm • 518-792-1150

StoneValleyArts.org • "It's a Wonderful Life" (1946) • 7 pm • \$5 sugg. • 145 E. Main St., Poultney, VT

SaratogaSpringsDowntown.com • 2022 Victorian Streetwalk Weekend • See robust sched. at link

BrooksideMuseum.org • Artisan's Market • 11 am-6 pm (every Fri. 'til Dec. 23)

Glens Falls, NY --Adirondack Christkindlmarkt • 3-8 pm • City Park --Holiday Parade & Tree Lighting • 5:15 pm • Crandall Park to Glen St. to City Park --Visit w/Santa • 6:30-8:30 pm • Glens Falls Nat'l Bank Wealth Mgmt. bldg.

BerkshireBotanical.org • Holiday Marketplace Preview Party • 5-7 pm • Center House

DowntownPittsfield.org • Clock Tower Artists • 5-8 pm • 75 S. Church St., Pittsfield, MA

HancockShakerVillage.org • See Dec. 1

DowntownPittsfield.com --Holiday 1st Friday Artswalk • 5-8 pm --Festive Frolic: Park Square Tree Lighting • 6 pm --Wreath Art Auction • 5-8 pm • Lichtenstein Ctr. for the Arts, 28 Renne Ave.

Fort Salem Holiday

continued below

3

SaratogaChamberPlayers.org • 3 pm • 175 5th Ave., Saratoga Springs, NY

Cambridge, NY • The Open Bar Band • 4 pm • The Vault on Main

ArgyleBrewing.com • Wynotte Sisters Holiday Show • 7 pm • Cambridge, NY

CaffeLena.org • Good-night Moonshine • 8 pm

See Theater Listings • **Fort Salem.com**

ImagesCinema.org

--"Triangle of Sadness" • 4:30 & 7:30 pm --"Elf" • 11 am, 1:15 pm



NRM.org • Rockwell's Life & Art - Holiday Guided Tour • 12 & 3 pm • \$10 + Adm. • Res. REQ'D.

Groom's Tavern • "More Saratoga County Stories" • 2-4 pm • 290 Sugar Hill Rd., Rexford, NY

Glens Falls, NY --Musical Entertainment • 9 am-5 pm • Various locations --Adirondack Christkindlmarkt • 9 am-6 pm • City Park --Santa • 12-3 pm • Band-

stand

NRM.org --Celebrate Deb Koffman's "Soul Support, 2d Ed." • 10 am-3 pm --"Best Day Ever! Holidays & Celebrations" • 11 am; 2 pm (kids & families) • RSVP REQ'D.

BerkshireBotanical.org • Holiday Marketplace • 10 am-4 pm

DowntownPittsfield.org • Clock Tower Artists • 10 am-4 pm • 75 S. Church St.

CambridgeNYChamber.com --Craft & Vendor Fair • 10 am-4 pm • Cambridge Cen-

continued below

9

DowntownPittsfield.org • Berkshire Lyric: Christmas Concert • 7:30 pm • St. Mark's Church, West St.

CaffeLena.org • Nordlys Global Voices: Veena & Devesh Chandra • 8-10 pm

Williams.edu • See Dec. 8

See Theater Listings

• **Hubbard Hall**

ImagesCinema.org --"Aftersun" • 3, 5:15, 7:30 pm (closes Dec. 15) --"Something in the Dirt" • 10 pm



ClarkArt.edu • Fresh Takes: Emerging Art Historians Explore Clark Collection • 12 pm • Free

HudsonHall.org • Leila Philip ("Beaverland") • 6 pm • Free, res. rec'd.

HancockShakerVillage.org • See Dec. 1

10

ClarkArt.edu • The Met: Live "The Hours" • 12:55 pm • Adv. res. rec'd.

MyStrandTheatre.org • Bluebillies Old-Time Christmas Revue • 7 pm • Tix: 518-832-3484 • Hudson Falls, NY

CaffeLena.org • Peter Davis Solo • 8-10 pm

See Theater Listings

• **Hubbard Hall**

ImagesCinema.org • "Aftersun" • 3, 5:15, 7:30 pm

ClarkArt.edu • Start with Art (Shadow & Light) • 10 am (3-6 yo + caregivers) • Free

BenningtonMuseum.

org • Family Day • 10 am-4 pm

HolidayShindy.com • 10 am-4 pm • Common Room, 74 1st St., Pittsfield, MA

FriendsOfClermont.org • Bird Seed Ornament Workshop • 1 pm

South Williamstown • Tree Lighting at Five Corners • 5 pm

HancockShakerVillage.org • See Dec. 1

16

UniversalPreservationHall.org • It's a Jazzy Christmas • 7:30 pm

CaffeLena.org • Happy Huladays w/the Swingin' Palms! • 8-10 pm

ImagesCinema.org • "Armageddon Time" • 2:30, 5, 7:30 pm

HancockShakerVillage.org • See Dec. 1

BenningtonMuseum.org • The Gala • 6-9 pm

17

BerkshireMusicSchool.org • Music@TheTaft: "Holiday Fun w/ Dan, Julia & Jim" • 11 am • Pittsfield, MA

CaffeLena.org • Holiday Folk Show • 4-6 pm or 8-10 pm • \$22

UniversalPreservation-

Hall.org • Remembering the Fifties Holiday Show • 7:30 pm



HubbardHall.org • Winter Dance Showcase • 2 pm •



ImagesCinema.org • See Dec. 16



ClarkArt.edu • Sarah Grandin: "Promenades on Paper" • 2 pm • Free

HancockShakerVillage.org • See Dec. 1

Dec. 1 cont'd.

JewishBerkshires.org • "Accidental Gangster: Dutch Schultz & Me" virtually • 6:45-7:45 pm • Reg. req'd. for Zoom

BrooksideMuseum.org • Artisan's Market • 12-5 pm (every Thu. 'til Dec. 22)

HancockShakerVillage.org • Hancock Holiday Nights • 5-8 pm • Adv. timed tix REQ'D

SaratogaSpringsDowntown.com • 2022 Victorian Streetwalk Weekend • 6-9 pm • See robust sched. at link, incl. Tree Lighting, 7:30 pm

Dec. 2 cont'd.

Market • 5-9 pm • 11 E. Broadway, Salem, NY

CambridgeNYChamber.com --Holiday Window Unveiling • 5:15 pm • 55 W. Main St. --Village Tree Lighting & Mr. & Mrs. Claus • 6 pm --Cambridge Historical Society Museum Christmas Open House • 6-8 pm • 12 Broad St.

GildedAge.org • Burgundy Wine Seminar • 5:30-7 pm • \$40

Ballston.org • Holiday Parade & Tree Lighting • 6:30 pm • Milton Ave., Ballston Spa, NY

Dec. 3 cont'd.

trale School --Christmas Goodies Bazaar Craft & Bake Sale • 10 am-2 pm • Cambridge United Presby. Church

Great Barrington Arts Delightful & Delectable Holiday Market • 10 am-4 pm • 352 Main St.

CambridgeValleyArt.org • Cambridge Valley Art Tour • 11 am-4 pm

BrooksideMuseum.org • Artisan's Market • 11 am-5 pm (every Sat. 'til Dec. 24)

SaratogaSpringsDowntown.com • 2022 Victorian Streetwalk Weekend • See robust sched. at link

Varosy Holiday Market • 12-5 pm • 1522 North Rd., Greenwich, NY

Dec. 4 cont'd.

DowntownPittsfield.org • See Dec. 3

Glens Falls, NY --Musical Entertainment • 10 am-4 pm • Various locations --Adirondack Christkindlmarkt • 9 am-6 pm • City Park --Santa • 12-3 pm • Band-stand

LARAC.org • Winter Arts Festival • 10 am-5 pm • Queensbury Hotel

CambridgeValleyArt.org • See Dec. 3

BrooksideMuseum.org • Artisan's Market • 11 am-5 pm (every Sun. 'til Dec. 18)

SaratogaSpringsDowntown.com • 2022 Victorian Streetwalk Weekend • See robust sched. at link

Fort Salem Holiday Market • See Dec. 2

HancockShakerVillage.org • See Dec. 1

Arts & Culture

THE CALENDAR DECEMBER 2022

Sun Mon Tues Wed Thurs

18

 **ArgyleBrewing.com**
--See Dec. 4
--Bluebillies Old-Time Christmas Revue • 7 pm

CaffeLena.org
--Blues Jam w/Sonny Speed • 2 pm
--Adam Ezra Group • 7 pm

DowntownPittsfield.org • Come Home for the Holidays • 2 pm • Colonial Theater

GildedAge.org • Cabaret "Swingin' in the Season" • 3:30 pm • Res. REQ'D. at 413-637-3206

SPAC.org • Damien Sneed's "Joy to the World:"

A Christmas Musical Journey" • 4 pm

SKY Family: Celtic Christmas Edition • 6 pm • 197 Sunnyside Rd., Queensbury, NY

 **ImagesCinema.org** • See Dec. 16

 **BenningtonMuseum.org** • Many Trails of the Stockbridge Munsee Mohicans • 2 pm • Free

HancockShakerVillage.org • See Dec. 1

25

19

 **CaffeLena.org** • See Dec. 5

 **ImagesCinema.org** • See Dec. 16

 **JewishBerkshires.org** • Nancy Kotz: "The Art of Hanukkah" virtually • 6:45-7:45 pm • Reg. req'd. for Zoom

26

 **CaffeLena.org** • Racquette River Rounders Annual Boxing Day Show • 7-9 pm

NRM.org • Prime Time Me! • 11 am; 2 pm • Free, kids & teens • RSVP REQ'D.

HancockShakerVillage.org • See Dec. 1

20

 **CaffeLena.org** • Rochmon Record Club: 2022 Retrospective • 7 pm

 **ImagesCinema.org** • See Dec. 16

27

 **CaffeLena.org** • Sarah Lee Guthrie • 7-9 pm

NRM.org • Prime Time Me! • See Dec. 26.

HancockShakerVillage.org • See Dec. 1

21

 **ArgyleBrewing.com** • 3d Wed. w/Jon Stewart • 6 pm

CaffeLena.org • Bluegrass Jam w/Red Spruce • 7 pm

 **ImagesCinema.org** • See Dec. 16

28

 **ArgyleBrewing.com** • Last Wed. w/7 Chords for Silver • 6-8 pm

HancockShakerVillage.org • See Dec. 1

22

 **ArgyleBrewing.com** • 3d Thu. w/Peter Maine • 6 pm

CaffeLena.org • Carolyn Shapiro • 7 pm

UniversalPreservation-Hall.org • The Queen's Cartoonist • 7:30 pm

 **ImagesCinema.org** • See Dec. 16

HancockShakerVillage.org • See Dec. 1

29

 **CaffeLena.org** • New American Cuisine • 7-9 pm

NRM.org • Prime Time Me! • See Dec. 26

HancockShakerVillage.org • See Dec. 1

Women of Color Giving Circle • Kwanzaa Celebration • 6 pm • 741 Tyler St., Pittsfield, MA

JANUARY 2023

1 Sun.

 **ArgyleBrewing.com** • See Dec. 4

BerkshireBach.org • Bach at New Year's: Baroque Concerto • 3 pm • Troy Savings Bank Music Hall, Troy, NY

2 Mon.

3 Tue.

 **CaffeLena.org** • Storytelling Open Mic • 7-9 pm

4 Wed.

 **CaffeLena.org** • Poetry Open Mic feat. Sparrow • 7 pm

5 Thu.

 **ArgyleBrewing.com** • 1st Thu. w/Dan Costello • 6 pm

CrandallLibrary.org • Blue Grass Music Jam • 6:30 pm

CaffeLena.org • The Ruta Beggars • 7 pm

6 Fri.

 **ArgyleBrewing.com** • 1st Fri. w/Moon • 5:30 pm

CaffeLena.org • Kat Wright • 8-10 pm

8

 **ArgyleBrewing.com** • See Dec. 4

9

 **CaffeLena.org** • See Dec. 5

10

11

12

 **CaffeLena.org** • Bright Series: Julian Taylor • 7 pm

CrandallLibrary.org • Colgate Resolutions • 7 pm • Free

ArgyleBrewing.com • 2d Thu. w/Eric Kuffs • 6 pm

13

 **CaffeLena.org** • The Figgs Celebrate Josh Chambers • 8-10 pm

 **ClarkArt.edu** • Emerging Art Historians Explore Clark Collection • 12 pm • Free

15

 **ArgyleBrewing.com** • See Dec. 4

CaffeLena.org • MLK Celebration w/Nikara Warren Trio • 6:30-9 pm

16

 **CaffeLena.org** • See Dec. 5

17

18

 **ArgyleBrewing.com** • 3d Wed. w/Jon Stewart • 6-8 pm

19

 **ArgyleBrewing.com** • See Dec. 22

ParkTheaterGF.com • See Dec. 15, feat. Will Gorman & Eric Zolan • 7:30 pm

20

 **MusicFromSalem.org** • Heart of Winter Party (bubbly, savories, raffle, silent auction) • 6 pm • Gather, 103 Main St., Greenwich, NY

CaffeLena.org • Damn Tall Buildings • 8 pm

Arts & Culture

THE CALENDAR DEC 22 - JAN 23

Fri Sat

23

UniversalPreservation-Hall.org • Samara Joy • 8 pm

misc.

HancockShakerVillage.org • See Dec. 1

30

ArgyleBrewing.com • Last Fri. w/Jester Fretless • 6 pm

ParkTheaterGF.com • Chestnut Grove & Friends • Dinner & show 7:15 pm • Early tix, \$15; day of, \$20

CaffeLena.org • Hold On Honeys • 8 pm

misc.

NRM.org • Prime Time Mel • See Dec. 26

HancockShakerVillage.org • See Dec. 1

JANUARY 2023

7 Sat.

CaffeLena.org • Kate McDonnell & Her Right Hand Men • 8 pm

14

ClarkArt.edu • The Met: Live "Fedora" • 12:55 pm • Adv. res. rec'd.

CaffeLena.org • Roomful of Blues • 7-9 pm

misc.

ClarkArt.edu • Start with Art (Storytelling) • 10 am (3-6 yo + caregivers) • Free

21

CaffeLena.org • Driftwood • 8-10 pm

24

31

ArgyleBrewing.com • Last Sat. w/Thom Powers • 6-8 pm

BerkshireBach.org • Bach at New Year's: A Baroque Concerto • 6 pm • Mahaiwe PAC, Great Barrington

misc.

BenningtonMuseum.org • Noon Year's Eve • 11:15 am • \$5/child • Kids w/families

HancockShakerVillage.org • See Dec. 1

ParkTheaterGF.com • NYE Dinner & Comedy • 6 pm • 518-792-1150

JANUARY 2023 cont'd.

22 Sun.

ArgyleBrewing.com • See Dec. 4

CaffeLena.org • Dar Williams • 4 pm or 7 pm

23 Mon.

CaffeLena.org • See Dec. 5

25 Wed.

ArgyleBrewing.com • See Dec. 28

CaffeLena.org • Larry & Joe • 7:30-9 pm

26 Thu.

CaffeLena.org • Dan Bern • 7-9 pm

ParkTheaterGF.com • Reese Fulmer & Carriage House Band • Doors, 7 pm • Early, \$15; Day of, \$20

ClarkArt.edu • Film & Drawing Series: "Fantasia" • 7 pm

27 Fri.

CaffeLena.org • Larry Carlton Quartet plays: --Greatest Hits & Steely Dany • 5-6:30 pm --The Crusaders Remembered Vol. 2 • 8-9:30 pm

ArgyleBrewing.com • See Dec. 30

28 Sat.

ArgyleBrewing.com • See Dec. 31

misc.

SVAC.org • Fundamentals of Collage • 1-4 pm • \$48/\$60 • Reg. REQ'D.

29 Sun.

ArgyleBrewing.com • See Dec. 4

30 Mon.

CaffeLena.org • See Dec. 5

Diner *continued from page 16*

came a big factor in his decision to attend Bennington College.

"John is very candid in describing himself as caretaker of the Blue Benn," Crabtree said. "About the only change he's made is the diner now takes credit cards. The chef, Brian Carpenter, was Sonny's line chef. Sonny trained him; he's been there forever."

Randall said that in her interviews with the diner's customers and staff, she was struck by how the Blue Benn functioned as "a community hangout that enabled people to be put aside any differences and be together as a town."

"It reminds me of [sociologist] Ray Oldenburg's 'third place' where a community can gather and just be themselves," she said.

Near the end of the book, next to a black and white headshot of a young Sonny Monroe, is Randall's distillation of the Blue Benn experience: "In the Blue Benn, people looked at each other a little differently, ignored strict social barriers, and let tolerance be their guide. ... The diner taught Bennington to sit with neighbors and listen. That was its greatest legacy."

"Sonny's Blue Benn: Feeding The Soul of a Vermont Town," is available at the Bennington Bookshop, Northshire Bookstore in Manchester, the Bennington College bookstore and at Battenkill Books in Cambridge, N.Y.

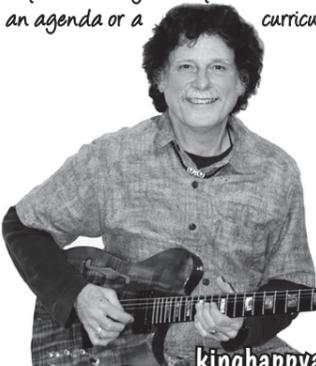
Visit www.bluebenn.com for more information about the Blue Benn diner. Visit www.thestoryproject.net for more information on The Story Project.

Northeast Solar Knights
Alternative Ideas for Renewable Energy

Sustainable Living
site surveys • on grid, off grid
installation • consultation

Begin your quest today. Call us!
518-929-2942

I've been teaching music for forty years, and I think the most important thing is compassion - love of people. I don't have an agenda or a curriculum - that comes from you.



What do you want to do musically?
What would make you happy?

Barry Hyman
barryhyman.com

518-677-5641
kinghappyartmusic@msn.com

Sara Kelly Art
Cambridge Valley Fine Art Tour
December 3-4, 11am-4pm
cambridgevalleyart.org

8 Myrtle Ave, Cambridge NY 12816
O: 518.677.8196 C: 518.480.8197

sarakellyart.com graphics • design • art
e-mail: sarakellygraphics@yahoo.com

David Faltskog Productions
EMMY-NOMINATED
VIDEO PRODUCTION
SPECIALIST

CORPORATE
EVENT
NEWS
LIVE TV
DOCUMENTARIES
CROWDFUNDING
COMMERCIALS




Focus on Quality

(619) 507-4316
DAVID@FALTSKOGPRODUCTIONS.COM

